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Battling reader apathy for 60 years

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AHMED MUMENI PHOTOS

Students for Students chairperson candidate Amber Dujay (left) faced off against Team Fast counterpart Caitlin Meggs during a Feb. 25 debate.

Dujay versus Meggs

Chairperson candidates debate the issues of next week's UVSS election

Nathan Lowther

Partying and lobbying took centre stage in the debate between the two candidates running for chairperson in the upcoming UVic Students' Society (UVSS) elections.

Amber Dujay, representing the Students for Students slate, faced her Team Fast counterpart Caitlin Meggs in a public debate co-hosted by the Martlet and CFUV on Feb. 25.

About 70 people, most of whom were friends of Meggs and Dujay or other candidates, gathered outside the SUB to listen to the two discuss the issues.

In a debate void of mudslinging and other typical political antics, both candidates said rekindling the SUB parties, which were snuffed out this school year due to alcohol related problems last year would be a key goal if they won.

"It was an unfortunate incident that [the SUB parties] were cancelled for this year," said Dujay. "However, we want to make the SUB parties sort of a finale to a month of events in September and January."

Meggs said her slate would like to add events that focus on social justice in addition to bringing back the SUB party.

Agreeing on more parties was easy. But there were clear differences between Meggs and Dujay when they debated who and how the UVSS should lobby.

They debated how issues such as public transit, tuition fees, student housing and military recruitment on campus should be addressed by the UVSS. Meggs considered transit her slate's top priority, with student housing and sustainability also being important.

"Sustainability is a huge priority for our slate," said Meggs, who is the current UVSS director of academics. "We've already done this work on sustainability this year, and we plan to continue working on it through transit, more local food, better composting facilities [and] doing an energy audit on the SUB."

Dujay said her Students for Students slate considers on-campus housing one of its biggest concerns, and is gearing its platform toward helping current students on campus. Dujay also wants to see the UVSS focus become more localized, pointing out that past efforts to lobby the federal government for lower tuition fees have been ineffective.

"Students for Students would like to lobby the [UVic] administration for financial aid," said Dujay.

A key element in the effectiveness of UVSS lobbying is UVic's membership in the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS). However, the two candidates felt differently about whether UVic should continue to dedicate $300,000 a year to align with the CFS.

"Many of the members of my slate are very, very anti-CFS. However, our slate does not take an official position," said Dujay. "It needs to be taken to a referendum."

But Meggs, who was the UVSS rep to the provincial CFS board, said the good of the CFS outweighs the negatives.

"I feel strongly that we should remain in, and try to improve, the [CFS]. It does amazing work for students of colour, aboriginal students, for women, for lowering tuition," said Meggs.

"I don't think we should walk out on working with other student societies."

The UVSS elections will be held March 5, 6 and 7, with voting stations across campus.

WHERE THEY STAND

Canadian Federation of Students

Amber Dujay (Students for Students): Believes that the CFS is in need of reform. But staying or going should be decided by the student body through a referendum. Many slate members are anti-CFS.

Caitlin Meggs (Team FAST): The CFS does a lot of good, and the number of student unions involved make for more effective lobbying. If CFS does need reform, staying a member and helping to make it better is the way to go.

Priorities

Dujay: Financial aid and on-campus housing for students are top priorities, with a focus on issues that affect students on campus.

Meggs: Main priority is transit, with housing, student debt and sustainability also being important.

Dealing with a divided board

Dujay: More individual voting and less slate voting will make for less "us versus them" mentality.

Meggs: Find common ground and leave the petty politics behind.

Canadian Forces recruiting

Dujay: There's no problem with recruiters, and wouldn't address it up unless it was brought up by the student body at an annual general meeting.

Meggs: The UVSS should facilitate discussion and debate on issues such as the Canadian Forces. But there are no plans on putting a ban back on the table.

Reforming the UVSS

Dujay: The UVSS makes too many political decisions for the student body, rather than being an administrative body that leaves the politics to clubs and course unions.

Meggs: Need to improve the communication between the UVSS and the student body.

Special events

Dujay: Bring back the SUB parties as a part of a month of events, including frosh week and beer gardens. Would also like to see a year-end bash.

Meggs: Bring back the SUB parties, as well as events for all ages and that focus on social issues.

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UVSS ELECTIONS

Campaign posters targeted, torn down

David Karp

Specific UVic Students' Society candidates had their posters and banners ripped down less than 24 hours after posting them.

Roughly 50 banners and 400 posters were torn down, many of which would have required a ladder to remove. The candidates affected were Team Fast candidates Ed Pullman, Caitlin Meggs, Tracy Ho, Christine Comrie, Veronica Harrison and Richard Park, and Students for Students candidates Randy Neville, Amber Dujay, Kyle Granger and George Robinson.

"As far as we understand, sometime between midnight and 4 a.m. [on Feb. 26], virtually all the posters were taken down for people who are running for executive positions — that's on both slates," said chief electoral officer Conrad Vanderkamp. "And some banners were taken down for two people who are running for director at large who are presently on the board."

Vanderkamp said the attack was targeted, noting the affected candidates had virtually all of their posters removed, except those in the engineering building, which was locked overnight.

Each candidate was given a $50 credit at Zap to print up to 50 posters and four banners. Deputy electoral officer Shawn Slavin said the electoral office will provide each candidate with an additional $25 for replacing the vandalized posters.

"It's really tough on everyone running because banners and posters take a lot of time and a lot of money and a lot of effort to produce, and we want students to know about us," said Team Fast chairperson candidate Caitlin Meggs.

Vanderkamp said the electoral office and both slates contacted Campus Security about the incident.

"Do we think it might happen again? We're afraid it might, although we hope not," said Vanderkamp. "We have no idea [who did it]. Neither, as far as we know, do any of the candidates. Nobody has come to us to finger anyone or as a witness to vandalism."

If a candidate is caught taking down the posters, they would be disqualified, Vanderkamp and Slavin said. Anyone caught taking down posters who isn't a candidate would be reported to Campus Security or Saanich police.

"We put in well over 40 to 50 hours of work on this, and regardless of whether or not you agree with student politics, it's still vandalism, and you've still destroyed all of our hard work," said Students for Students chairperson candidate Amber Dujay. "It's very disturbing, and this is why sometimes students don't get involved in politics."

UVSS ELECTIONS

Tracy Ho runs for finance

Tracy Ho is running for director of finance, which some may view as a step down from the chairperson's position, but Ho sees it as a great opportunity.

"I'm taking commerce, and I think I could really apply my skills and my business background in terms of my courses," said Ho, who also worked as a restaurant manager in Vancouver. She wants to ensure the work she's started continues next year.

"I would really hate to see some of the campaigns and the work that we've done, such as the We Ride [transit] campaign, fall through," she said.

- David Karp

UVSS ELECTIONS

Independents offer change

The Martlet goes one-on-one with all four non-slate candidates

Four independent candidates are running in this year's UVic Students' Society (UVSS) elections. Visit Martlet.ca for full interviews and audio of candidate speeches.

Stephen Beckmyer, 20, is a political science student.

Why are you running?

I feel the way the UVSS has been run in the past isn't the way I'd like to see it run. When they voted to ban the military from recruiting, that clinched it for me. A university is supposed to be about universality, so I don't think that any one group should make decision like that for other people.

What do you think about the failure to implement electoral reforms?

It was disappointing. They spent all that money to get that report. As long as the reforms are going to be still implemented, its good, but it would have been nice to see it for this election.

What changes would you make?

I'm interested in getting more students involved [with student activities] and better fiscal management of the students' money. I'm also against legislating choices for students.

Ahmed Mumeni, 20, is a geography student, a former RA, the Martlet's photo editor, co-president of the Photo Club, and he sits on the board of directors of the Society for Geography Students.

Why are you running?

I'm running to see if I can make a difference. I'd like to provide a new perspective to the board. I'm hoping that my background as a RA for two years will help in organizing events for students — I learned to be inclusive of everyone. Coming in as a refugee into Canada in '98, I went through a lot of culture shock... I'd like to help some of the international students to adjust to life in Canada and Victoria.

What do you think about the UVSS' troubles?

There's been lots of times when the UVSS has made mistakes, such as the SUB party incident. I'd go back and look at what went wrong.

The UVSS has always been there for the students. When I was an RA and I needed space for an event I was running, the UVSS board voted unanimously to give me the space.

Because the views [on the military] are so varied across campus, I don't think it's the place for the board to make big political decisions for the student body. The student body should have been informed, and they should have made the decision on their own.

What changes would you make?

If you look around, a lot of people running are from essentially the same culture, but different backgrounds. Hopefully I'll be able to use some of my past experience growing up in the Middle East to help students who are in the same shoes as I was.

Ryan Levis, 22, is a business and creative writing student. He is the president and the artistic director of the Big Ideas Club.

Why are you running?

I'm running so I can get more recognition for the events that I intend to produce. I'd like to have a more media friendly title — I think it would be helpful to amplify my intentions of [getting press] for the projects I'm working on.

What are you going to do for students?

I'm going to encourage arts exposure across Canada. I'll do this by putting on events off-campus, getting press, networking, socializing, producing and promoting.

What do you think about the military ban?

I'm fairly neutral.

What do you think about electoral reforms?

I don't know enough to comment.

What changes would you make?

I'd like to see more of my specialty brought to light, which is business arts.... I'd like to see more people out, singing, dancing, going and doing what they love.

Dylan Hardie, 23, studies Spanish and political science. He has been a doorman at Felicita's for the last two years, and is involved with the UVic Scuba Club and the Afro Caribbean Student Association.

Why are you running?

There's a number of things I've wanted to get done on campus for a while, and I don't see them being done. I figure if I want to get them done, I'll have to them myself.

I want to get Vertigo open as a nightclub once or twice a week [and] redo Felicita's to make it a lot more fun..... Why do we have different copy cards for every printer? Why does Zap use Open Office instead of Microsoft Word? Why can't Felicita's advertise online or off-campus?

What about the military ban?

I view the military as a necessary part of our society, but I don't agree with a lot of the things the military does. But banning the military from recruiting, in my eyes, is ignorant. If you disagree with what they're doing, go against the politicians who sent them over..... The military is just a tool.

What changes would you make?

It seems there's not much sense of community; a lot of people want things on campus but don't know how to do it.... I'd like to improve communication across campus as a whole. If someone has something they want to do, I want to facilitate them to achieve those goals.

I want to do what people want, rather than pushing my personal agenda. I'm not going to be up in people's faces, writing on chalkboards, annoying them. I'm here to help students, not to piss them off.

- Steve Carey

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UVSS ELECTIONS

Voter apathy won't stop these candidates

David Karp

AHMED MUMENI PHOTO

(From left to right) George Robinson, Ed Pullman, Richard Park and Tracy Ho are elections veterans.

Incumbent director-at-large candidate Richard Park is sitting on the patio at Felicita's enjoying a drink when he is interrupted by a mature student holding a beer.

"How are the elections going?" the man asks. "I see a lot of the same people running as last year and talking the same talk as last year. Did you actually do what you said you were going to do last year?"

It's campaign season, and Team Fast's Park appears unfazed at being interrupted by inebriated strangers wanting to talk politics.

"We got one cent for the gas tax," Park says, referring to an increase announced in the recent provincial budget that will go toward funding public transit.

"We had more all ages events this year," he adds. "That's something I campaigned on."

But the questioner isn't sold on the merits of student politics.

"Students out here just don't give a fuck," he says.

"That's true," admits Park, a third-year biology student. "There's a lot of apathy.

Park is one of the few students who gives a fuck. This year, he's making his third run for director-at-large of the UVic Students' Society (UVSS) as well as the university senate, and is making his first run at the UVic board of governors.

But are students paying attention? The voter turnout in annual elections hovers around 10 per cent, while the most recent UVSS general meeting failed to attract the 100 students needed to conduct business.

It's a problem, acknowledges Ed Pullman, who is running for director of academics and a seat on the UVic senate.

"No matter how much effort you're going to put into it, you're never going to be able to engage the majority of students on campus," said Pullman. "But I don't think that should detract you from being involved. I think that should be viewed as a challenge."

This is Pullman's third campaign for the UVSS board of directors — like Park, his first try was unsuccessful but he was elected the second time around.

While Pullman said clearer communication could increase engagement in student politics, Students for Students director of services candidate George Robinson says the problem may lie in the structure of the UVSS.

"I think a lot of people don't realize the potential there is for improvements," said Robinson, who is making his second run at the UVSS after spending three years on the UVic senate. "They see the same sort of problems coming every year, and ultimately I think the structure of the board needs to change in order to enable long-term improvements."

But Park said many students don't get involved because they're busy with extracurricular commitments.

Tracy Ho agrees. Currently the UVSS chairperson, Ho is running for director of finance next year.

"Students' lives are really busy. They don't have the opportunity to come out and participate as much as they might want to," Ho said. "And that's really a big shame."

But that's not to say the veteran politicians aren't busy. Park works as a lifeguard at Commonwealth Pool and says he treats politics as his social life.

"Other students would not consider this fun, and not consider this a social aspect of their life," said Park.

"Ew, that makes me sound like a nerd," he adds, laughing.

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B.C.'s green budget leaves out students

Budget's three-year plan offers no funds for recommendations of a report aimed at improving post-secondary

Rosemary Westwood

Finance Minister Carole Taylor's green budget made headlines across the country for taking a stand on climate change last week, but the budget mostly ignored students and post-secondary issues.

With $400 million in tax cuts, $428 million to improve B.C.'s economy and $1 billion to support the government's greenhouse gas emission reduction target, the government has provided only enough money to cap tuition fee increases with inflation, something the government has already been doing.

"The only bit of good news is that, as best as we understand the numbers right now, it looks like the government put in enough money to cover inflationary pressures," said Robert Clift, executive director of the Confederation of University Faculty Associations of B.C. "We're in a status quo situation."

UVic Students' Society (UVSS) chairperson Tracy Ho said the government's inaction to invest in post-secondary education means students will be suffering in the future.

"We're not investing enough money right now for post secondary so that we can have educated people to be able to work toward a more sustainable future," said Ho.

In fact, the budget sees no new money toward post-secondary education, and many decreases in funding.

Student loan disbursements will decrease by 7.4 per cent, or $20 million, money Ho said isn't much in the grand scheme of the budget, but will result in fewer students being able to access the funds. But because the student population is expected to grow next year, per-student funding is expected to decrease by 3.2 per cent.

"Student poverty is going up and funding is going down," said Ho. "We have a skills shortage and yet we're not putting in the money to make sure that people that live in B.C. are educated so they can take on those jobs."

According to a Canadian Federation of Students release, tuition fees in B.C. are more than $600 above the national average, and student debt is highest in the country outside of the Maritimes, at $27,000 per student.

Clift said faculty are particularly disappointed that no money was allocated for implementing recommendations in the Campus 2020 report. The report, initiated by the Liberal government in 2006, was completed in April of 2007 and includes recommendations on how to improve the post-secondary system in B.C.

Clift called the lack of funding "very distressing."

"The government have been sitting and twiddling their thumbs for 10 months," he said. "If they're serious about implementing the recommendations of the Campus 2020 report, there is a significant financial investment involved."

Clift said the two most important recommendations included cleaning up the student financial assistance program and increasing post-secondary participation among Aboriginals and first-generation Canadians.

"[The student financial assistance program] is a huge freaking mess," said Clift, adding that the budget includes a three-year plan that has no new funds allocated to implement the report's recommendations.

"At this point there is no way [the government is] going to make the goal for 2020 for Aboriginal participation, so we have to question whether they ever had a commitment to that," he said.

The problem, said Clift, is the government's narrow attention span. He noted that Premier Gordon Campbell's throne speech in 2006 listed five goals for B.C. in the next decade, and that the number one goal was to make B.C. the most educated and literate jurisdiction in North America.

"It isn't good enough the way it is right now," said Clift. While the budget maintains the current situation for students in B.C., "a decade from now it will make a huge difference."

But Ho is happy about one aspect of the budget that she says will directly benefit students: a one per cent increase in the gas tax that will go toward improving public transit.

"[Better transit service] is something that students have been asking for for so long, and I think we've done that," said Ho.

The increase is half of the requested two per cent increase that was a part of a Canadian Federation of Students petition handed to the government on Jan. 31. The UVSS gathered 4,000 signatures for the petition.

"I think the student effort has really tipped the scales in terms of making it a priority and showing Minister Carole Taylor that it is something that we need," said Ho.

Ho said the UVSS will now work with BC Transit to ensure that students see results from the one per cent tax increase.

UVic e-mail filters could mean missed opportunities

Spencer Anderson

UVic law students could be missing out on important employment opportunities due to problems with the UVic e-mail server, says one Victoria lawyer.

Drew Mildon, who works for the law firm Woodward and Company, said he and his firm have had difficulty contacting UVic law faculty and students because the firm's e-mails have been bounced back by the UVic server.

"I would send a message to a student or faculty member, and then six or seven days later a message would be in my inbox saying that my original message had not gone through," said Mildon. "This has been a problem for a month now. And the UVic tech people have not fixed it ... both of our [communications] people have talked to UVic, and we still have not been whitelisted."

According to www.the-cma.org, a whitelist is a list of contacts that the user deems are acceptable to receive e-mail from, and will not be filtered by a spam filter.

Mildon said that until recently he has been unable to e-mail Career Services.

"I suspect [the blocked e-mails] are having a negative aspect on the job applications of a lot of students."

Linda Dragart, a recruitment coordinator at Career Services, says the spam filters on the UVic server are reasonable.

"Employers would just love to be able to send job offers directly to students," said Dragart. "But students don't want that. There was a real problem with spam, and students get so much e-mail already, so we want to protect their privacy."

Dragart said that Career Services asks an employer the general purpose of their e-mails before asking the Computer Help Desk to whitelist their e-mail address.

However, Mildon said that when students and faculty contact his firm, he is unable to send his reply to them due to UVic filters. Furthermore, Mildon claims that his firm had already *contacted the faculty* of law's career development officer Jennifer Moroskat about his firm's e-mails being blocked.

Moroskat could not be reached by the Martlet for comment. Thomas Winterhoff, director of communications for the faculty of law, said that UVic technical services is looking into the problem.

Mildon said he was told that he could avoid having his e-mails rejected by sending two copies of each message, but he added that's not very feasible.

"I'm a lawyer. I don't have that time," he said.

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Wage cuts planned for residence advisers

University reforms will split current position into two separate jobs starting in September

Tim Lindsay

UVic is phasing out the residence adviser (RA) position, which will mean lower pay rates for some employees in September.

Forty-eight student RAs live and work in UVic's on-campus residences. They organize social activities and enforce the rules governing residence behaviour.

Next year UVic plans to replace the RA position with two new positions: community leaders and community monitors.

The community leaders will focus on the positive aspects of RA work such as peer helping and community building. The community monitors will specialize in enforcing the rules and dealing with difficult situations.

"We're finding that the RA role is becoming more and more stressful and demanding for the students who are in the position," said Zoe Woods, acting manager of Residence Student Affairs.

"The RAs have been finding that the student population [in residence] are more confrontational than in the past," she said. "With that increased confrontation, we're feeling a need to change the position so we can do more specific training and hire people who have the ability to deal with confrontation, without having a whole amount of other things that the position requires them to do."

AHMED MUMENI PHOTO

Richard Park, a UVSS director-at-large, has orgainzed a meeting for residence advisers to voice their concerns to the students' society.

UVic plans to hire 12 community monitors and 60 community leaders next year, compared to the current 48 RAs. Freeing the community leaders from their disciplinary roles and increasing their numbers should allow them to provide better programs for students in residence, said Woods.

But with the changes in responsibility comes a change in compensation. RAs currently get a free room and a meal plan from September to April, worth about $6,000. While the 12 community monitors will receive considerably more pay, the 60 community leaders will only get a $1,000 stipend per semester. Neither position will include free accommodation.

Community leaders will be required to "perform the duties of a teaching assistant for a first-year class in residence," according to a draft job description provided by housing administrators. The weekly tutorial is estimated to require a commitment of 4.5 hours per week — something RAs aren't currently required to do.

Community leaders must also schedule two "in nights" per week, hosting organized activities or just being in their rooms available for peer helping from 7 p.m. onwards. They have to organize two events per month and help with two annual events such as dances. They will still be responsible for ensuring that students comply with residence rules by alerting residents if they are breaking a rule or referring incidents to supervisors.

"It's an emotionally draining position," said Richard Park, a director-at-large for the UVic Students' Society who organized a meeting on Feb. 27 which gave RAs a chance to raise any concerns with the UVSS. "All [UVic is] doing is getting rid of the policing function. But they will have to teach a tutorial and be an assistant for two tutorials. They're doing this additional work but getting paid a lot less and it's just ridiculous."

Park has heard complaints this year from RAs unhappy with the level of respect they feel they are getting from management. Park said that one RA was assaulted by a resident earlier in the year and the response that the RA got was simply inadequate.

> "A lot of RAs feel like they are being scoffed at."
>
> – *Richard Park*

Woods said the reduced compensation, relative to what RAs currently make, reflects the changed responsibilities of the position.

"The community leader position is being advertised as an opportunity for leadership and an opportunity to live within a community more than it is being advertised as a paid position," said Woods.

But that's not acceptable to Park.

"The work of RAs requires [an incredible amount] of time and energy and yet they are asking them to get paid less. I think a lot of RAs feel like they are being scoffed at and that they are being treated unfairly," said Park.

Park noted that UVic Policy 6510 requires that RAs receive a free room in compensation for their ongoing work. Changing that policy would require approval from the UVic board of governors, he said, which hasn't been done.

This week in Martlet history

Stories from the Martlet archives

March. 3, 2005 — UVic lowered its minimum entrance grades to increase enrollment. Anyone with a B average could be let in. Previously, students needed an 82 per cent average to attend UVic.

March 5, 1998 — A student who received a racist letter at a Valentine's social event spoke to a Martlet reporter about the ever-present racism. The student said he hadn't previously experienced racism at UVic.

TOP TEN

FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 25TH, 2008

CFUV 101.9 FM cfuv.uvic.ca

1. CAT POWER
   Jukebox (Matador)
2. MAGNETIC FIELDS
   Distortion (Nonesuch)
3. XIU XIU
   Women As Lovers (Kill Rock Stars)
4. VARIOUS †
   Aaargh! Annual Vol 3 (Aaargh!)
5. BLACK MOUNTAIN*
   In The Future (JagJaguwar/Scratch)
6. SOUNDTRACK
   Juno (Warner)
7. HOT CHIP
   Made In The Dark (Astralwerks)
8. STEVE DAWSON*
   Waiting For The Lights To Come Up (Black Hen)
9. ELBOW BEACH SURF CLUB*
   Billy Club (Burnt Oak)
10. PULLING TEETH
    Martyr Immortal (Deathwish)

* Canadian artist † local artist

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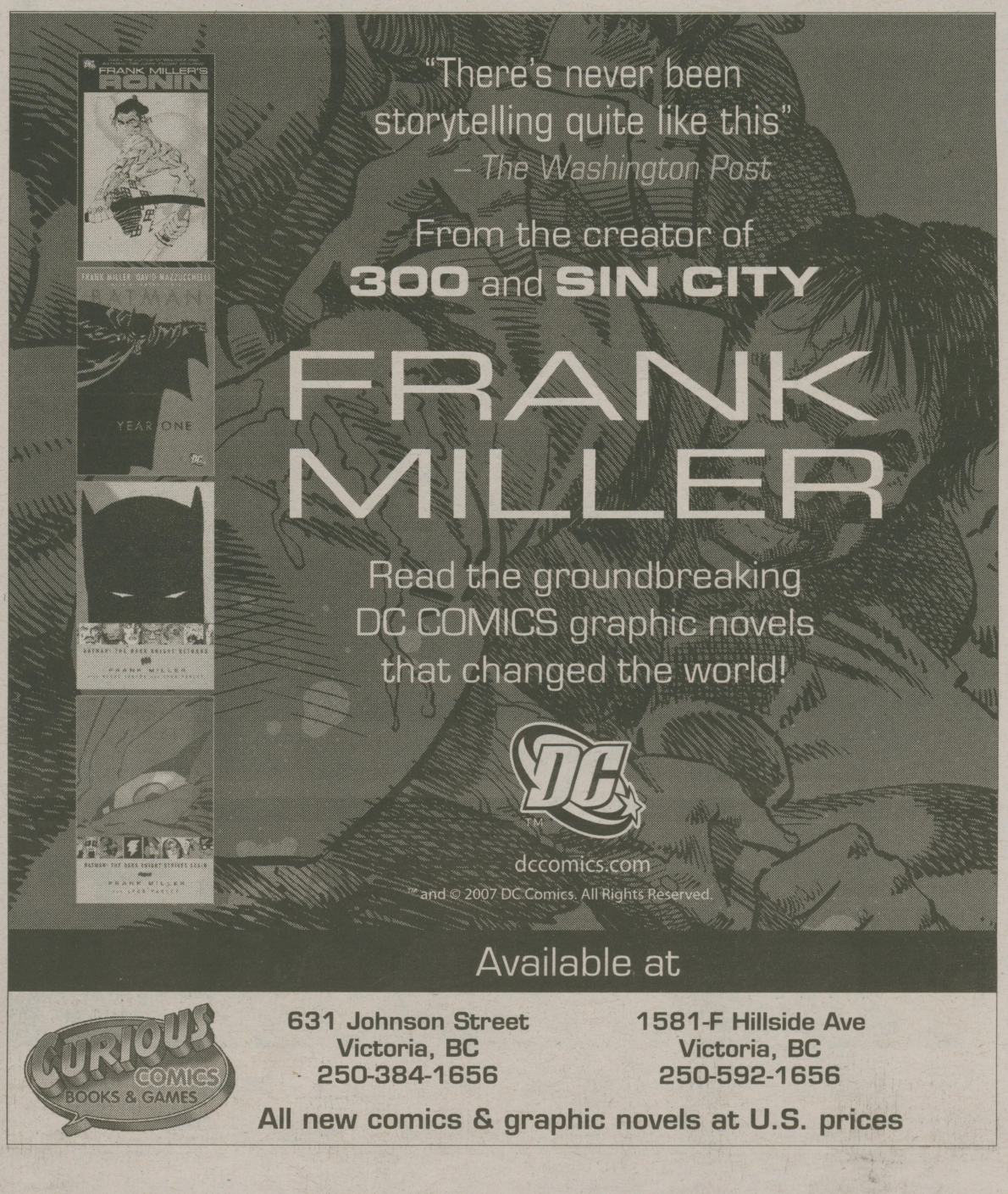
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Competition seeks bright minds and bold ideas

John McNeil

If you've got a great idea, UVic wants to hear from you.

UVic's Innovation and Development Corporation (IDC) is launching a new entrepreneurial competition for students and researchers across Vancouver Island. The Ideas Competition challenges faculty, staff and students at UVic, Camosun College and other Island academic institutions to compete for over $18,000 in cash prizes.

"This is a new resource on campus that encourages entrepreneurial thought and action by providing advice and resources for students," said Jennifer Rog, manager of the Innovation Centre for Students which is partnering with the IDC for the event.

Entrants can present a concept, a business model, or invention idea. The Ideas Competition is looking for an innovative and entrepreneurial idea that is useful, creative and in demand. Effective ideas must have utility and must be feasible. However, considerable attention will be paid to originality or uniqueness of a particular concept. More practical aspects of a contestants presentation will also be considered such as potential market size and demand for the product or service, as well as its superiority over competing businesses or products.

JOSH SZCZEPANOWSKI PHOTO

Jennifer Rog and Brodie Albright are helping run a competition to give great ideas a financial jump start.

"The competition is designed to help jump start ideas from student, staff or faculty at any of the institutions we serve," said Havind Sehmi, IDC's co-acting president. "Rather then having to have a detailed business plan or prototype, we want people to have a fun and relaxed atmosphere to bring out their ideas."

This differs from previous IDC competitions, such as the IDC Invention Competition and the IDC Student Business Plan competition, by making the idea more important than the plan. Participants are expected to be able to answer how they plan on getting their idea to market or into the hands of the public. As well, they should be able to identify the degree of demand there is for a particular concept, as well as the target market it is being geared toward.

The Ideas Competition is only one aspect of the IDC organization, which has fashioned itself as the link between UVic's faculty, staff, students, and alumni, their inventions and innovations, and the marketplace. Its mandate is to move research into the public and private sectors through partnerships, licensing of technologies, and the formation of new spin-off companies.

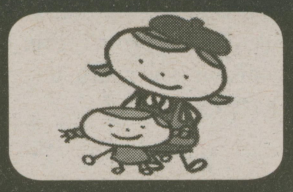
"By having network events, we are hoping to provide an opportunity for like-minded people to interact and discuss their passions and vision," said Sehmi. "Some of the best ideas start with a simple conversation."

The IDC promotes its free services to undergraduate students, encouraging them to come forward and present their ideas so faculty can add value at the earliest possible stage. Their services range from patent protection, business plan reviews, investing, licensing and company creation.

"UVic students, through the Innovation Centre for Students and IDC, have an opportunity that is truly unique to them by being able to turn their educational experience into a real life career," said Sehmi.

For more information or to enter the contest, visit http://idc.uvic.ca/Ideas/. Submission deadline is March 31.

Teach English to Children in Japan!



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Feds give UVic $1 million for tech research

Will Johnson

She may have graduated more than a decade ago, but Rona Ambrose hasn't forgotten her years at UVic. Ambrose graduated with a psychology degree from UVic in 1995, and returned to campus on Feb. 20 to announce over $1 million in increased research funding for the university.

"Strengthening UVic's world-class research capacity is important to British Columbia," said Ambrose in a statement, adding that the entire country will benefit from the $1,036,400 investment made by the federal government. Ambrose is Canada's minister of intergovernmental affairs, minister of western economic diversification and president of the Privy Council.

"We are delighted," UVic president David Turpin said in a statement. "The equipment and facilities being funded are supporting world-class research that will be of direct benefit to Canadians in fields as diverse as coastal management, drug development, alternative energy and information processing."

The contribution will mostly go toward research equipment, but will also fund the Vancouver Island Technology Park. Owned by the university, the technology park provides services to the advanced technology sector in south Vancouver Island. The money will also serve as a substantial investment in the Victoria Experimental Network Under the Sea (VENUS). VENUS runs an ocean observatory on the Fraser River delta and collects data from the ocean floor.

The research equipment acquired through the funds will facilitate a wide range of research. Among the benefits will be better diagnosis of ovarian cancer, improved breast cancer therapy and the more efficient harvesting of solar energy.

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NATIONAL NEWS

Federal budget retools Millennium Scholarships

Nick Taylor-Vaisey
THE FULCRUM

OTTAWA — Federal Finance Minister Jim Flaherty announced on Feb. 26 that the federal government will not renew the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation.

It will be replaced by the Canada Student Grant Program, one of several investments in post-secondary education the government intends to make in the next few years.

In his speech presenting the federal budget, Flaherty said the government intends to finance the grant program through a four-year, $1.6-billion investment that would replace the Millennium Scholarship Foundation when it expires at the end of the next fiscal year.

"We must ensure that the next generation of Canadians has the opportunity to excel in this increasingly competitive world," he said.

Over $650 million in new post-secondary spending is allocated through to the end of 2010, and $132 million is slated to be spent before the end of this fiscal year.

The Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) welcomed the funding, but not without reservations.

CFS national chairperson Amanda Aziz hoped there would be more money in the grants program but was satisfied the Conservatives created a national framework.

"We're pleasantly surprised that they've announced this framework, and that this can be the beginning of a national system of needs-based grants — one that most other Western countries ... have," she said. "We are at least relieved that there is a new program to replace the [Millennium Scholarships], and one that will be more accountable than this private-foundation model."

According to Flaherty, the Millennium Scholarships "had limited success in encouraging more people to go to college or university, and did not provide students with predictable funding from one year to the next," adding it is "a significant intrusion to provincial jurisdiction."

Flaherty said the new program would fix these problems by supplying bursaries through all years of education. The program would provide monthly grants to students — $250 and $100 to low- and middle-income students, respectively.

If the budget passes, transitional grants will be provided to Millennium Scholarship recipients as that program winds down next year.

Flaherty also committed to a four-year, $123-million modernization of the Canada Student Loans program. Among the planned improvements are expanded online services, more attractive loans for part-time students, and assistance to borrowers having trouble repaying loans.

Victoria NDP MP Denise Savoie criticized what she called an inadequate grants program and an insufficient overhaul of the Canada Student Loans program. She said the grants program offers less money per student than the Millennium Scholarships because it serves almost 100,000 more students.

Flaherty also proposed a new graduate scholarship program. Immediate federal funding of $25 million over two years would aim to support 500 doctoral students, and Flaherty said in total, $100 million would be invested over five years.

Another two-year investment of $21 million looks to expand the Canada Research Chairs program by introducing 20 new Canada Global Excellence Research Chairs.

The three federal granting councils, agencies which distribute funds for university research, will receive $80 million in new funding. The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council will receive $34 million, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research will receive $34 million, and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council will receive $12 million.

Budget 2008 also revamps the Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP) regime. Under the proposed legislation, students can contribute more to RESPs and have more flexibility when accessing them.

Pollster Nik Nanos said that in his judgment, the budget was designed to appeal to families, particularly those with students.

"For any parents [who] are trying to put their kids through university and support them through that, this is definitely welcome relief," he said. "What's probably more important for the Conservatives is how this is likely quite possible to resonate among female voters. Moms are very involved in the education of their children."

NATIONAL NEWS

Students trash newspaper over military ads

Kelly Ebbels
THE MCGILL DAILY

MONTREAL (CUP) — Students at McGill University are protesting military advertisements in one of their campus newspapers by ripping out the pages and bringing them back to the editors.

The McGill Tribune, which ran advertisements for the Canadian military two weeks in a row, was the target of student activists who tore the advertisements from hundreds of copies of the newspaper and delivered them to the Tribune's newsroom. The advertisement, which was booked through Campus Plus, a national advertising firm owned by Canadian University Press, also appeared in the Martlet on Feb. 14 and is on page 21 of this edition.

Students delivered a letter to the Tribune demanding that it stop printing military advertisements or the papers "will be disposed of immediately and readers will not get a chance to read them."

Editor-in-Chief Tiffany Choy said that the Tribune's editorial board could control advertising policy, but it cedes discretion to the paper's advertising manager, an employee of the university's students' union.

"I can see where they're coming from, but I don't think it's really a big deal," Choy said. "Canada's a big country that does have an army."

Michael Freeman, a social work student who participated in the action, said that the students would like to work with the Tribune to boycott the military advertisements.

"[Ads] take advantage of the fact that most students are in debt, and are vulnerable," he said. "We'd like to see [the Tribune] stop tacitly supporting the Canadian military."

Tessa Vikander, another McGill student and a staff member at rival newspaper, the McGill Daily, said that the students involved in the action may consider bringing the military advertising issue to a general assembly meeting of its student union. But she said that she hoped the Tribune would simply stop printing military advertisements.

"It could be that simple. If they do [continue], we'll see how people act," Vikander said.

Choy added that the Tribune is willing to talk to the students who believe military advertisements should be banned from their paper.

The McGill Daily boycotts ads from the military, pharmaceutical companies and oil companies. Le Délit, McGill's French-language weekly, does not have a boycott policy. The Martlet used to have an ad boycott list, but has since removed its ad boycott policy after years of it not being used.

- with files from David Karp

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Opinions

EDITORIAL

UVic needs to develop cautiously

For a medium-sized campus such as UVic, there is a point where progress and sustainability meet at a crossroads. That moment may have already arrived for UVic.

In October, the Natural Features Survey called for by UVic's facilities management department to help develop a sustainable development strategy.

The survey also revealed that 24 of the 123 species of birds on campus have disappeared, blaming the disappearance on a loss of habitat from construction on campus, and the drainage of a swamp area which is now a playing field.

UVic's sustainable practices when it comes to pests are also questionable. The university has used rat poison to eradicate a rodent problem, but the birds of prey who feast on poisoned rats can also die.

So what? A few new buildings may cost a UVic a few chirping birds, but progress doesn't come free. Why should we care?

First, the loss of birds is a symptom of the larger problem of unchecked growth. With buildings popping up on campus left, right and centre, it appears we may be getting to big for our britches. If we continue along this path, UVic could end up looking more like UBC.

The second reason is that, as an educational institution, UVic should be a shining example for the rest of the community of what sustainable development should look like. If 24 birds have left campus, we have a problem on our hands.

The university community needs to seriously think about how construction on campus and the expansion of infrastructure affects biodiversity within and outside campus. "Sustainable development" needs to be defined and rigorously followed.

The university is at least aware of the problem. Concrete steps (no pun intended) have been taken, such as the environmentally-friendly sod roof on the new Math and Social Sciences Building. But the discussion should not be limited to modifying newer buildings.

This issue affects the direction of the university. With our new buildings comes a bigger university population. Do we have enough residence buildings to house them? Do we have enough athletic facilities to keep people happy? Do we have enough cafeterias to feed them?

The answer is probably no. This means more development could be necessary in the very near future, and if we're not careful, the university will lose more birds. We should be careful to ensure that development doesn't become a vicious cycle which requires more and more buildings to pop up without careful consideration to the impacts construction will have.

UVic president David Turpin should assemble a task force which will consult faculty, students and outside experts for the purpose of answering the most important questions. When does the development stop? Where are the limits? At what point does UVic say, "No more?"

Development can be good. It gives us access to up-to-date facilities, better equipment, and a campus with a more diverse range of capabilities.

Development without a plan and clear limitations for future growth is another matter entirely.

UVic is known for its small, accessible, green campus. Let's keep it that way. UBC has the Thunderbirds. UVic should at least have real birds.

Editorial topics and stances are decided on by staff at our weekly editorial meeting at 2:30 p.m. every Friday in the Martlet office (SUB B011). Editorials are written by one or more staff members and are not necessarily the opinion of all staff members.

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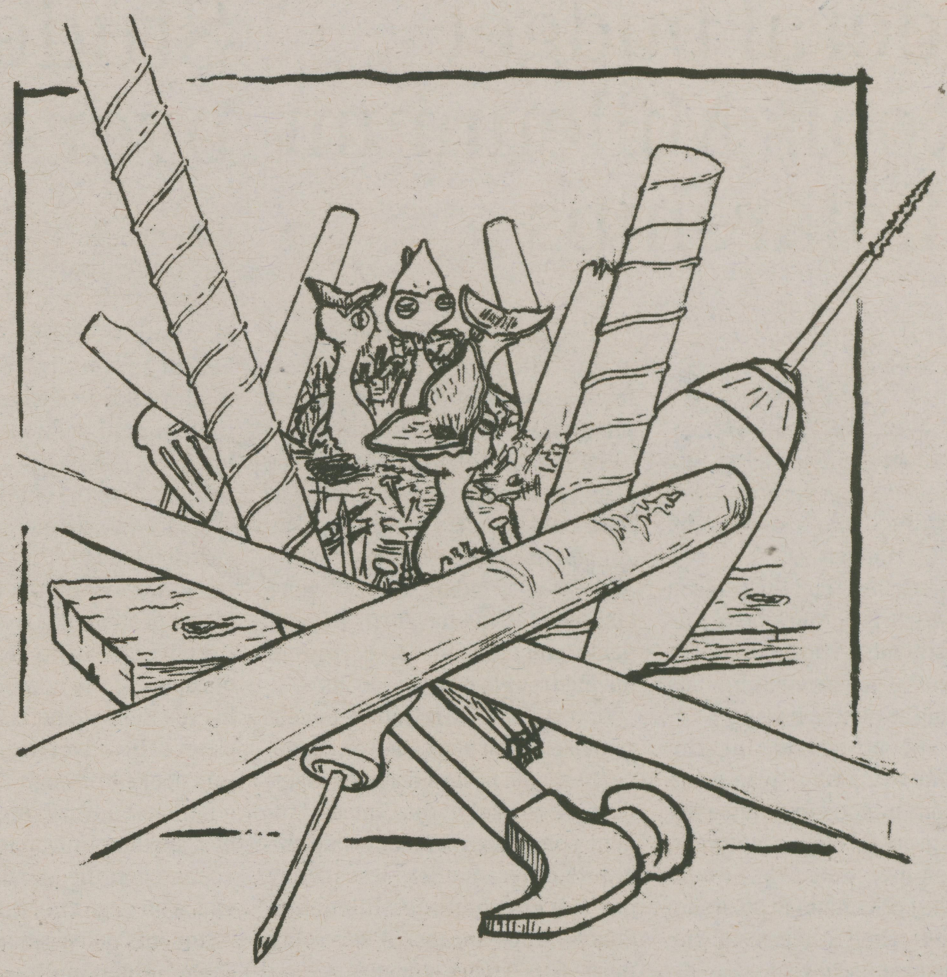

MARC JUNKER GRAPHIC

Free speech deserves more than lip service

Spencer Anderson

JENNIFER ZHOU GRAPHIC

Die-hard, Western democratic thinkers will have us believe that society values free speech above all else. How hollow.

Take Aboriginal people, for example. According to Statistics Canada, the Aboriginal population is growing three times faster than non-aboriginal, but infrastructure has not kept up. There are 85 high-risk water systems in Aboriginal communities in Canada. There is a two per cent cap on funding increases for Aboriginal infrastructure, and as a consequence there are now problems with access to clean water, electricity and health facilities. Western democratic thought assumes everyone has an equal forum, but it's hard to be on equal footing when you lack water, electricity and good health.

Only 20 per cent of the seats in the federal Parliament are allocated to women. This could be because of many different things, but it isn't an accident.

Free speech is a subjective value for too many people. Freedom of expression and freedom of political action are praised at face value, but scorned when push comes to shove. Does any person who opposes proportional representation have any idea how many votes were wasted in the 2006 federal election? Thousands of people who voted may as well have stayed home.

There are plenty more examples of how free speech is tossed aside to placate and satisfy the outrages of the committed and vocal. Look no further than the "Islamophobia" revolution in the Western world. Apparently critiquing Islam is a hate crime.

In 2006, a Danish newspaper published a cartoon depicting Muhammad. There were riots in London, Toronto and other major cities. There were cries for the blood and heads of those who dare mock the great authority of the universe by drawing a cartoon.

It's horrifying to see how often the staunchest proponents of human rights will side with the angry mob rather than the man at the drawing easel. How cheaply they are willing to sell the most precious quality of our society.

Hate crime law in Canada is something we need to pay more attention to. The average person has no idea how dangerous it is for the open forum. Each voice we silence is one more brick in the wall of our own prison. To paraphrase Christopher Hitchens, even the narrative of the most despicable racist benefits us. We are richer for having heard it, because in every voice, there is a granule of truth, a way of looking at the world, that would not have otherwise been heard.

Not enough of us recognize this truth, and not enough of us recognize that just a few thousand miles away, you can be shot for saying something the ruling class doesn't like. Each person who ignores the plights of the disadvantaged in Canada, or sells out free expression or the free press with well-intentioned hate laws (the road to hell is paved with good intentions) takes us one step closer to that place.

You can't have free speech when you have no clean water or education. You can't have free speech if your vote doesn't count. You can't have free speech if you fear a cartoon you drew may cause someone to kill your family.

And you can't have Canada without free speech. We should take it more seriously.

martlet
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Debate is the first step to democracy

Jonathan Hopkins

The head of the Canadian Forces was off the mark when he tried to stifle debate on the Afghanistan mission.

Speaking at the Conference of Defence Associations annual gathering on Feb. 24, Canada's top soldier, General Rick Hillier, urged parliamentarians to deliberate the future of Canada's mission in Afghanistan hastily. In his speech, he noted that "Canadian troops are, in the eyes of the Taliban, in a window of extreme vulnerability. The longer we go without that clarity, with the mission in doubt, the more the Taliban will target the Canadian Forces as a perceived weak link.

General Hillier's comments are truly astounding given that since the deployment of troops to Afghanistan in the autumn of 2001, an authentic parliamentary debate on Canada's role in Afghanistan has yet to take place.

In the wake of Sept. 11, the Liberal government affirmed its commitment to the U.S.-led war on the Taliban regime. However, they undertook this momentous decision without the consent of Canada's elected representatives. In October 2001, the Chrétien government permitted a parliamentary debate on the issue, but Members of Parliament were afforded mere spectator status in the brief discussion on Canada's combat mission in Afghanistan. The debate concluded without a parliamentary vote.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE

General Rick Hillier (right) has tried to stifle debate on Afghanistan.

"This method ... left the real decision squarely in the hands of the Prime Minister and his cabinet"," University of Toronto professor James Laxer wrote in TheFilter.ca.

Parliamentarians were finally given the opportunity to vote on the mission in 2006. However, the newly elected Conservative government failed to provide parliament with a definitive debate on the subject. For example, the government gave MPs short notice as to when the debate would occur, and were given much less debating time than the usual three or four days spent on the average motion. The Conservatives failed to allow consultations, input or hearings on an issue of such great importance to the nation's ""security interests," as the Prime Minister himself put it.

The parliamentary vote in 2006— as to whether the combat mission in Afghanistan should be extended until 2009 —passed by only four votes. Though a majority was declared and legitimacy granted, parliamentary opinion was as palpably divided as Canadian public opinion, which had seen support for the mission erode drastically. Hillier's advice to Canadian parliamentarians is also quite ironic — the apparent lack of democratic discourse reflects poorly on the government's rhetoric of sowing the seeds of democracy in Afghanistan. Recommending our elected representatives wrap up a crucial issue that has escaped authentic parliamentary debate is egregious, to say the least, especially in lieu of our government's record (whether Tory or Liberal) of facilitating fruitful dialogue.

Canadians ought to find it disgraceful that the lives of their men and women in uniform and the trajectory of their foreign policy lies in the hands of a select few officials operating behind closed doors. If genuine debate had not been stymied in the first place, Hillier would have obtained a concrete mandate, our allies in NATO would have been well-informed of the Canadian government's intentions long in advance and the degree of partisan wrangling would not be nearly as acute as it has been.

MELODRAMATIC MUSINGS

Celling your soul to man's mobile friend

Will Johnson

I lost my cellphone recently.

It fell out of my pocket while I was on the bus. I realized it was gone right after I stepped off.

I spent the entire walk home constantly reaching into my pocket for it, then remembering. My first instinct was to send a text message to my roommate — *Lost my phone! Shit!* — but clearly, that wasn't an option.

Sitting at home, I felt odd. Like a portion of my brain had been scooped out, and I'd been deprived of a vital motor function.

How do people live without cellphones?

When I was 18, I went through a pseudo-religious Adbusters-inspired rebellion phase. I made all sorts of bizarre vows and resolutions: *I will never own a house. I will never own a credit card.*

One of the things I vowed to avoid? A cellphone. It was a disgusting luxury, another corporate gadget we didn't need. I refused to be sucked into blind consumerism.

When I went away to college, my mom bought me a shiny new cell phone for Christmas and promised to pay for the plan.

"I'm not going to use it," I said. "I don't need it."

"I just want to be able to get a hold of you," she replied.

So I grudgingly brought it along with me, using it mostly to play Snake. It took me a while to figure out voice mail and text messaging, and more often than not it was turned off and left in my backpack.

I can't remember when the transition happened, but somewhere along the line my cellphone carved a niche in my life, and soon I never left home without it. I make long distance calls while riding my bike, text message everyone I know while I'm on the bus, and take advantage of many other functions which suddenly become more useful whilst drunk.

It's gotten to the point where, at parties, people will find me huddled in a closet or hiding in the backyard, dialing anyone who will answer at 2 a.m. I've embarked on a passionate love affair with my phone, holding it close to my face and feeling its warmth against my cheek.

I remember when I lost my Scotty Dog. I was four, and I left it in the back seat of a bus and threw a berserk, panicked tantrum. My mom frantically made phone calls, finally reuniting me with my beloved stuffed animal a couple hours later.

This time, I didn't have to kick a fit, but I did get my phone back too. I'd missed a couple calls, a few texts, but nothing big. Somehow, just feeling that little bulge in my pocket, I was a bit more complete.

LETTERS

Military takes casualties seriously

Contrary to Nick Cohea's claim (Letters, Feb. 14), there is nothing indiscriminate about the actions of the Canadian Forces in Afghanistan. The Canadian Forces go to great lengths to avoid civilian casualties. Any suggestions otherwise are offensive, ill-founded, and yet another example of the sensationalist hackery that has brought so much scorn to anti-war groups on campus.

While Cohea has attempted to bring the moral weight of Kant to bear upon those who opposed the protest, in doing so he has fallen into the trap of sensationalism and misrepresentation for which the students of this university have little taste.

Furthermore, it is not, as he claims, our disgust that draws attention away from the real issues. That has been done by activist groups who choose to use such divisive and childish tactics.

I would guess that a survey of UVic's population would show that a majority is against the mission in Afghanistan in its current form. However, we would much rather be talked to than yelled at. We would prefer evidence to hearsay.

We would prefer discourse to spectacle. If anti-war protesters on campus realized this they might actually tap into the current of anti-war feeling that exists on campus.

- Jon Fox, UVic student

Trans athletes don't have it easy

The problem of discrimination against trans athletes (Finding a home for transsexuals, Jan. 31) predates mountain biker Michelle Dumaresq by decades.

In her struggles to be accepted as a woman by the World Tennis Association, Renée Richards writes on the assertion of a male-turned-female's greater muscle power in athletics.

"A man's muscle mass is sustained by ... testosterone," Richards wrote. "Once this is taken away the muscles change.... Their size is reduced, they elongate, and they become smoother. The muscle mass on my body was entirely appropriate for a woman my size."

In reality, Richards lacked the strength of a comparable woman. Her second point is that male muscle moves a larger, thicker and heavier skeleton than women and "the muscles in a woman's body are smaller partly because they are designed to move a skeletal frame that is lighter than a man's.... I was moving the skeleton of a man my size with the muscle mass of a woman my size. I could have claimed that I was playing with a handicap."

- Danna Waldman, UVic alumnus

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Student loans not all bad

Trisha Gieni

With the end of semester approaching faster than my fingers can type my final papers, student loans are also lurking around the corner.

Whether you are graduating and getting ready to pay off that giant balance, or running out of funds and looking to apply, you probably need a heaping spoonful of optimism first.

Student debt isn't all bad. Let's look at the issue from the "glass half full" perspective.

Debt shows determination. You didn't let something as silly as money get in the way of your dream. You persevered. You struggled. You took the government's money and will pay it back not just once, but possibly twice (depending on how long it takes you to do it). That is ambition.

Debt shows independence. Yes, you owe someone, but that "someone" isn't the person who fed and clothed you from your infancy to your teens. A person with a student loan is probably not leeching off his or her parents and that makes them strong and mighty.

Debt means a plan for the future. Even if the plan isn't exactly what you had in mind, at least there will be some stability in your life. You will undoubtedly be giving most of what you earn to the government and there's no way around it. That's a 10-year plan if I've ever heard one.

Debt shows commitment. Anyone willing to have a giant debt attached to them like a ball and chain has no fear of commitment. This makes you a keeper and means that you will also have no trouble strapping yourself into a long-term relationship.

Debt is bling. With $10,000 in your account, life is looking pretty good. (Note: beware to those dating someone with a student loan. Just because he or she can shower you with gifts now doesn't mean that your future earnings won't go toward paying back these "gifts.")

Debt shows humility. Who doesn't like someone who isn't afraid to ask for help? You will never drive around for hours without asking for directions. You will stop, ask and be on your way.

Debt motivates. This is a fantastic bonus for those B.A. grads with no real direction after the big day. With every day that passes, the time to pay creeps closer. Some may say this is a cause of stress, but why not call it motivation? Nothing says "Get a good job" like the threat of garnished wages.

So instead of cursing your debt and regretting your choice not to work during the year, be thankful for your loans and embrace their beauty. They may make us stronger people in the end (if not a little bitter).

Silent spring at UVic

Natural Features Survey shows UVic's bird population is plummeting as campus construction expands

Kimberly Bruce

The biodiversity of bird species on UVic's campus has declined drastically in the last 30 years. The Natural Features Survey, commissioned by UVic's facilities management department to aid in sustainable development, documented the loss of 24 of the 123 bird species once common on campus.

According to the survey, habitat loss and changes in drainage have had the greatest effect on bird populations. There has been a steady decline in migrating bird species because of the drainage of a swampy area that is now the Vikes field. Historically, birds such as the dunlin and the black-bellied plover used the swamp as a winter feeding ground. As the university continues to develop, more habitat is being lost for other bird species that previously colonized this area.

"The most dramatic is [the loss of] skylarks, which used to nest pretty much where the David Strong building is," said Val Schaefer, director of restoration systems program in the environmental sciences department, who supervised the study. "When that building went in, it pretty much wiped out their habitat."

Schaefer said the facilities management department has been collaborating with the restoration systems program to encourage local biodiversity within the scheme of the university's expansion. He hopes the new Social Sciences and Math building, with its environmentally-friendly sod roof and nine different theme gardens of native plants surrounding the building, will work toward this goal.

ANDY STEWART PHOTO

The Cooper's hawk is one species of urban adapter that is benefiting from development on campus.

But why do some species seem to disappear in urban environments while others multiply?

"When we talk about urban biodiversity we think in terms of urban adapters, urban exploiters and urban avoiders. And the urban avoiders are the ones which are harmed most by any type of development. The urban adapters are the ones which really benefit," said Schaefer. "The urban exploiters are the ones we don't want to encourage, like the crows and seagulls."

One of the urban adapters thriving on UVic's campus is the Cooper's hawk. These small hawks are common on the South Island and primarily hunt smaller birds, but have developed a taste for baby bunnies.

There is at least one Cooper's hawk nest for every three square kilometers in Victoria, with even higher numbers on campus because of the concentration of coniferous trees, said Andy Stewart, a zoologist with the ecosystems branch of the B.C. Ministry of Environment. He says these small raptors adapt well to fragmented forestlands. Healthy breeding populations have also been studied in Tucson, Ariz. and San Francisco.

Stewart has studied Cooper's hawks in the Victoria area for more than a decade. He has seen up to five active nests on campus.

"Few students notice these birds because of their wait-and-pounce hunting style," he said. "They are a surprise attack hawk, so they don't make their presence known, unless they fly right in front of somebody. Even then most people don't see them."

Cooper's hawks are also prey for great horned owls and barn owls, larger raptors found in the woods surrounding the university.

Species of an area are interlinked, so rising and falling levels of individual species can have impacts for the whole ecosystem. For example, poisons introduced into an ecosystem can spread as other animals ingest the poisonous plants or animals. Stewart was concerned when he heard about a rat poisoning incident recently on campus.

"[The poison] will just kill the predators and then there will be even more rats," he said. "It's counterproductive; you're killing the owls and the hawks. Use rat traps — don't take out their natural predators."

He is also concerned that further development of the campus could lead to loss of woodlands that are key to the success of these raptors. He would like UVic to set a better example for the community and step up its stewardship of biodiversity.

"[The university] has lots of nice natural habitat there that they're slowly chewing away at," said Stewart. "Why does it have to continually grow? There are just more buildings, less forest and more traffic."

Your take

Why is biological diversity important to you?

CHARLOTTE BARROW PHOTO

"If exposed to greater diversity, what people deem to be beautiful will be more encompassing. Ethnic diversity goes along with biodiversity."

- Psychology student Shannon Ross (left) and geography student Amanda Theriault

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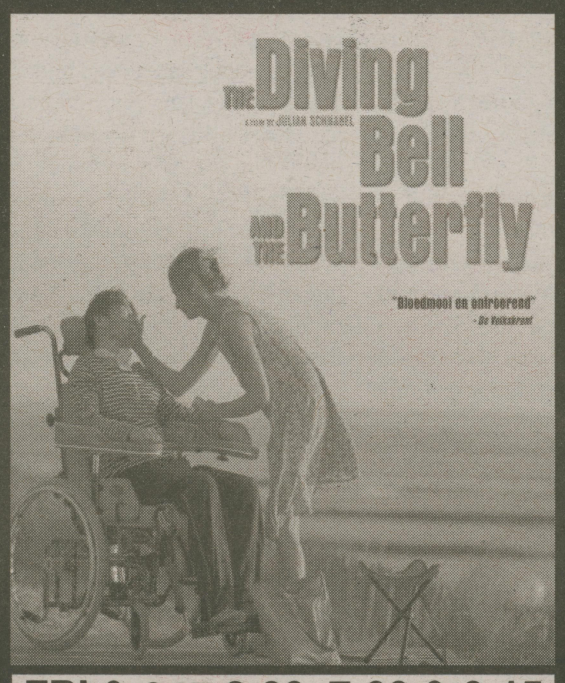

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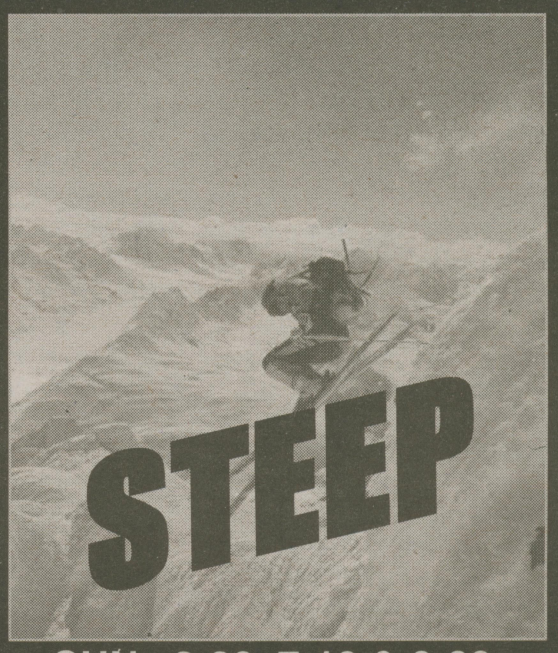

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REACHING IN

An unusual mix of people gather for dinner at St. Chiara's.

Drug addicts and prostitutes are surrounded by smiling and laughing children. Large plates of steaming food are passed around. There is laughter and excited conversation. The windows steam up, condensation dripping down the glass.

St. Chiara's is a co-operative community located in the heart of Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. Since 1993, its residents have been serving meals, helping the homeless and creating affordable housing for those in need — all while raising their children. Their homes, currently being renovated and supported by government funding, house a community of families trying to reach out and help the most miserable and lost members of our society.

At dinner, a tired-looking man brings his plate to the table and sits down. He has old pink scars on his face and a crooked smile. Bent over his perogies, Mel Hennan enjoys his dinner with the children of St. Chiara's.

Hennan, 44, comes to St. Chiara's on a regular basis for the free meals. He was introduced to the community through a friend, and said he made an "instant connection" with the people.

As he eats, a brother and sister tussle playfully on the floor, trying to wrestle one another to the ground.

"Careful, guys," says Hennan, smiling. "Come finish your dinner."

A youthful optimism

On the corner of Jackson Avenue and East Cordova Street in the Downtown Eastside, it isn't unusual to see a homeless man sleeping on the street or a prostitute stumbling along awkwardly in her high heels. A block away from East Hastings, this corner sees its fair share of the drug dealers, mentally ill and society's most marginalized people. What is unusual about this corner is the three young girls in Sunday dresses, smiling as they walk hand-in-hand down the street outside St. Chaira's.

"What's so cool about what we do here is we welcome people into our homes. They become a part of our family," says Elisha-May Walker, 13. She's lived on Jackson Street her entire life. People often ask her whether she likes living there, and her answer is always the same.

"Sometimes it's good, sometimes it sucks, but it's the only place I've ever lived. I don't know anything else," she says. "I think it's awesome because there's always someone to hang out with."

Through a series of serendipitous developments, St. Chiara's has expanded into five houses — the White, Green, Blue, Yellow and Red houses. Many tenants have come and gone, and there are currently 18 children. The residents host community meals five times per week, and Elisha-May's mother, Kathy, recently started a music school for underprivileged kids. St. Chiara's has received funding from a number of different grants, including a Residential Rehabilitation Program grant.

Elisha-May is a happy and outgoing girl who likes to hang out with her best friend Aurora. She's the third daughter in a family of five girls, and is currently training for the Sun Run with her mother. Living in St. Chiara's seems to have given her an unusual ease in the poorest urban neighbourhood in Canada.

When asked what her responsibilities in the community are, Elisha-May stops to think. Besides babysitting and finishing her homework, she considers herself in charge of the celebrations.

"I'm like the party organizer," she says. "I love the parties."

Recently, Elisha-May and her mother attended a community meeting was held to discuss plans for construction of a new Union Gospel Mission in the nearby Strathcona neighbourhood. Though met with concern and controversy from some of the wealthier residents, the project will reach out to many in the community.

"It was so funny — Elisha was just fearless," says Kathy, beaming with pride. "She just marched right up to that microphone and started talking. 'We need to help these people,' she said. 'The mission will help them.' "

Since the meeting, Kathy has been inundated with feedback about Elisha-May's speech, and how it inspired and enlightened many of the people there.

A new lens

For two years in a row, the Walker children have won the Hope in Shadows photography contest, held by Pivot Legal Society. Every year since 2003, Pivot has handed out hundreds of disposable cameras, and participants have three days to take pictures of their neighbourhood.

Elisha-May's older sister Hannah, 15, won the contest last year with an image of two children kissing on her front porch. Elisha-May received an honorable mention. Her nine-year-old sister, Mercy, won this year with an image of her three friends walking hand-in-hand down the street.

"I didn't even get out to vote for Hannah," says Kathy. "People just love that shot. Then, when Mercy entered the contest, I thought she'd need some support because she wasn't going to do very well — then she won!"

At the Carnegie Centre (a local community centre), residents are encouraged to vote for their favorite images. Twelve pictures are selected each year to be included in a calendar, which is sold by local residents. The project includes a public exhibition, covered extensively by local media.

WILL JOHNSON PHOTO

Elisha-May Walker stands in front of a graffiti mural in the courtyard of St. Chiara's.

People are eager to find hope amidst one of the greatest housing crises in British Columbia's history, and the Hope in Shadows project finds images that celebrate the Downtown Eastside's unique flavor and culture. While many people are fixated on the disease, crime and drug addiction of the area, the images feature smiling people and close-knit families. Many contestants take pictures of their children or grandchildren.

A real concern

Fifteen years ago, when Kathy Walker moved to Jackson Street, she had a simple vision. "We thought we needed to have a close connection to the poor. We wanted to share our lives," she says.

Along with her husband Lane and four friends, Kathy moved into the Green house. At first, the six of them did not have a specific goal. They wanted to live out certain values, and open themselves up to the experience. They continued to have children and raise them, while getting to know the local residents.

"We had a real concern for these people, but at first we didn't know what to do about it," Kathy says.

NTO DARKNESS

How kinship and youth are brightening a slice of Vancouver's Downtown Eastside

By Will Johnson

WILL JOHNSON PHOTO

Mercy (left) and Kathy Walker pose in the living room of their home.

They have lived there though evictions, break-ins and attempted buy-outs. Oppenheimer Park across the road is often littered with needles and used condoms, and many sleep there on a regular basis. While living on Jackson Street, the family has seen drug overdoses, arrests and knife fights. Once, a mentally ill man was shocked with a Taser in front of their home while everyone watched. They don't usually call the police.

"You'd be surprised how unhelpful the police are," said Kathy. "They just don't understand what's going on down here."

Instead, they try to solve their problems in a different way. Sitting on the couch together, the family members laugh and recall stories. They frequently interrupt each other, correcting minor details.

"Late one night there was this man yelling in the street, just swearing and screaming. He was keeping everyone up," Kathy says. "Lane went up to him and said, 'I've heard enough from you. This is where I live with my kids.' The man apologized, right there, and went away. Just left."

There are ongoing issues in the Downtown Eastside, including gentrification and the upcoming Olympics. The neighbourhood is in a crisis, and the provincial government has been working to solve the problem. Recently, it purchased 13 local hotels for community housing. Many residents say it's not enough.

"A couple weeks ago, a man burnt to death in his tent just over there," Kathy says, pointing out the window. "He was probably trying to keep warm. It's freezing out there at this time of the year.

"We're seeing a fundamental disrespect for human life," she adds. "People are being left behind. You can't imagine the misery down here, the human suffering."

Overcoming shame

After he became a familiar face at St. Chiara's, Mel Hennan was invited to move in more than three years ago.

Hennan describes living at St. Chiara's as "good and difficult." He loves the community members and feels welcome there. However, there were rules to follow (no illicit sex and no drugs) that he acknowledged were good for him, but that he didn't want. When he allowed a friend to smoke crack in his room, Kathy asked him to leave.

"It was a development stage for me," he said. "Kinda like a cocoon."

Hennan moved to a rooming house a couple blocks away. There were no hard feelings, and he tries to stay involved with St. Chiara's and various local initiatives.

Still addicted to drugs and living off welfare, Hennan tries to "use [drugs] respectfully, and in a timely manner whenever possible." Hennan struggles with feelings of shame, but tries to live by the motto his adopted parents taught him: "Keep Showing Up."

Hennan says sometimes it's hard for him to wake up in the morning. He struggles with the feeling that he doesn't belong in this world, and says it's important to differentiate between shame and guilt.

"Guilt means you did something wrong. Shame means you are wrong," he said.

Though he feels sorry for many of his mistakes, he says it is important to remember the good things he has accomplished. Connecting with people, and meeting them "heart to heart," is what's most important to him.

Originally from the Northwest Territories, Hennan moved to Vancouver in 1970. His father is a retired RCMP officer, and a great inspiration in Hennan's life. He also speaks fondly of his mother, who has now passed away.

Hennan is Inuit, and usually wears a baseball cap embroidered with the words "Native Pride." He is a friendly and vibrant member of the community. Walking down the street, he seems to know almost everyone. There is a constant smile on his face, and he is quick to shake hands or give hugs.

> "We're seeing a fundamental disrespect for human life."
>
> – *Kathy Walker*

He points out the safe injection site, the bottle depot, the bank where most people cash their welfare cheques. He weaves his way in and out of crowds, touring the Carnegie Centre, the Downtown Eastside Residents Association offices, and his local hangouts, such as the Ovaltine Café.

Hennan talks a lot about his friends on the street, especially Matthew and John. Both of them, he said, connected with him in a way that was "quite sudden [and] immediate." They look out for one another, and help each other out with money when they can. Hennan describes the Downtown Eastside as an intimate network of friends, all willing to help out when needed.

"On my own, I'm just a person," he said. "With someone else, I'm a human being."

✸

St. Chiara's has become a permanent fixture in the landscape, and its residents are unassuming members of the society. To the average passerby, their community is not especially noticeable. It is just a row of houses lining Jackson Street, porches overloaded with bicycles and toys, their walls painted in bright primary colors. But to the residents of the area, it is a beacon of hope to all those suffering on the Downtown Eastside.

"We have hope," says Kathy. "What's happened here is a massive miracle."

WHAT'S IN YOUR MOUTH?

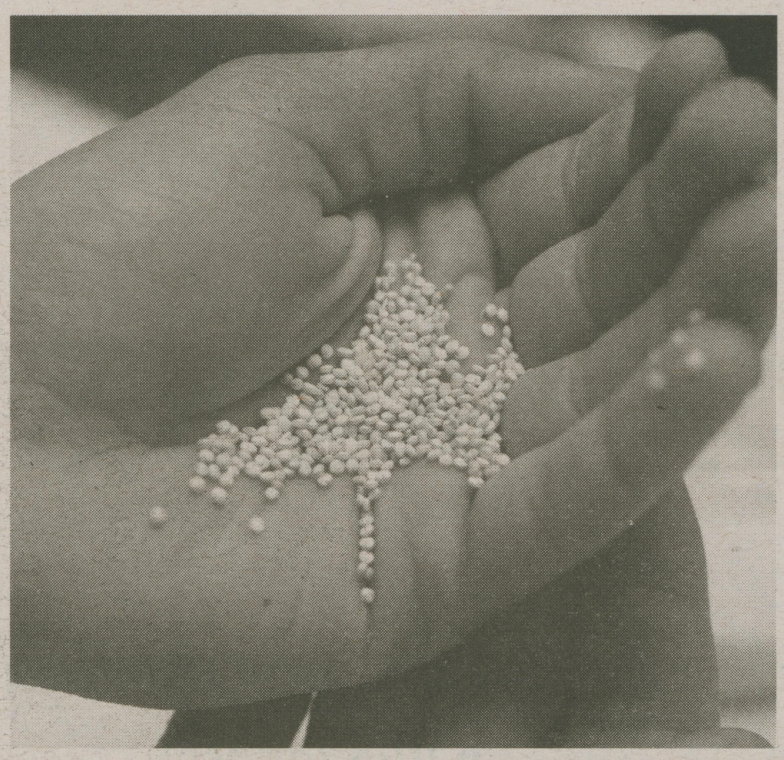
Keen on quinoa

Jessica Salloum

Originally from South America, quinoa (pronounced KEEN-wah) is the seed of a plant, but is eaten as a grain would be. A complete protein, quinoa makes an excellent breakfast item and is highly recommended for herbivores.

Quinoa is available at health food stores and at most local grocery stores (Thrifty Foods carries it in bulk and Fairway sells it packaged). To prepare it, first rinse the seeds in water to get rid of any remnants of its bitter coating, which helps the crop repel insects and withstand high heat. Then, steam it as you would rice, mixing in two cups of water for every cup of quinoa.

When cooked, quinoa has a fluffy, slightly crunchy texture and a bit of a nutty taste, making it more interesting than rice while providing a lot more protein and iron.



SAM VANSCHIE PHOTO

Quinoa can be tossed into soups, salads and bread dough.

Spicy Quinoa Soup

15 ml (1 tbsp) oil
1 clove garlic, coarsely chopped
10 ml (2 tsp) jalapeno, finely chopped
125 ml (1/2 cup) quinoa, rinsed
750 ml (3 cups) vegetable broth
250 ml (1 cup) water
250 ml (1 cup) frozen corn kernels
1 large tomato, diced
250 ml (1 cup) black beans, cooked
Salt to taste
Cilantro and lime to garnish

Heat oil to medium heat in a medium- to large-size pot. Add garlic and jalapeno, stirring for one minute and taking care not to burn the garlic. Add quinoa, broth and water, turn heat up and bring to a boil. Simmer on medium for about 10 minutes or until the quinoa is cooked, then add tomato, corn, beans and salt. Cook for another three to five minutes. Garnish with cilantro and lime.

If you don't have broth on hand, you can make your own by boiling onions, garlic and carrots.

Quinoa Breakfast Mush

250 ml (1 cup) almond milk
125 ml (1/2 cup) quinoa, rinsed
50 ml (1/4 cup) dried fruit
1 ml (1/4 tsp) cinnamon
5 ml (1 tsp) orange/lemon zest
5 ml (1 tsp) honey, optional

Bring the almond milk to a boil. Add quinoa and reduce to medium heat. Simmer for five minutes. Add remaining ingredients, except for honey, and gently simmer to reduce liquid. Stir in honey.

ASK MISS MARTLET

Give your studies one last push

Danielle Pope

JENNIFER ZHOU GRAHIC

Dear Miss Martlet:

After a great break, and with summer looming around the corner, how can I get my mind to stick on school?

- Wandering

Dear Wandering:

At the end of the term it's easy to let things slide, but it's more important than ever to lock in tight with your studies. While many students find the last few months of school the hardest to endure, they'll also be over before you know it.

Meanwhile, here are a few tips to keep your mind on the books (and out of the clouds):

1. Re-motivate. Make a list of all the reasons you want to succeed in your courses. Don't just stop at the obvious: grades, graduation. Think about how this material is actually preparing your mind and helping you achieve those life-long goals. Fill up an entire notebook page with all the reasons you can think of. On another, dump out everything undermining your motivation: life issues, anxiety and hopes. Physically and mentally vow to keep those thoughts separate from your studies.

2. Reorganize. Is your study space as effective as it could be? Updating your materials (which includes decor and music) can help fulfill those need-for-change feelings. Also, be sure your study sessions are happening at the right time — not when your brain is looking for a rest (i.e. midnight before an exam).

3. Activate your mind. If your thoughts are wandering because the material is getting old, make it new. Your brain absorbs more when you're actively engaged. Try to interact with your material by asking critical questions or making diagrams. Don't forget that your subject was developed by people who found it exciting.

4. Be in the here and now — for now. When you feel your mind wandering, actually reciting "*Be here now*" can keep you on track. Instead of trying to banish your more playful thoughts, bring your focus back to school. Ask yourself a question, outline your progress or summarize all you have left to do to keep your brain on track. Repeat the mantra as necessary.

5. Allow some dream time. With summer's hint in the air, you've got things look forward to. Carve out a little time every day to build up those summer goals. Grab a map and plot out all your hopeful destinations while in Europe, plan that new work wardrobe or write out a list of books you're hoping to plow through under the sun. Knowing you'll have time to get excited later will help you spend your school hours focused on just that — school.

Got a question? Let Miss Martlet investigate. Query missmartlet@martlet.ca.

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CONCERT REVIEW

Canadians love Mika

Trisha Gieni

Pop singer Mika adorned the stage of Vancouver's Orpheum Theatre in his signature skin tight jeans on Feb. 15. Complete with a visually overwhelming cast of larger-than-life showgirls and various stadium style inflatable characters, the show was anything but boring.

From the first note of his song "Relax," the crowd was on their feet, flailing their arms about and screaming the lyrics with more passion than Mel Gibson yelling "Freedom!" Some flamboyant fans dressed as the characters from Mika's songs, wearing shocking bright colours and toting umbrellas and oversized lollipops.

You wouldn't know that it was Mika's first tour in Canada, judging from the seasoned knowledge the fans had of both his songs and his stage personality.

After the concert, Mika had hordes of girls on his heels. But he still had time for a few comments. Mika called his time in Canada "surprising," adding, "You go on tour expecting one thing and it turns out to be completely different."

His Dodgy Holiday tour began last fall, bringing him from Europe to the United States, and finally to Canada. The majority of places visited along the way were first-time stops for the 24-year-old British performer.

Joining him for the North American leg was Toronto-based band The Midway State. With a Coldplay-esque sound, these Canadians had fans swarming the autograph table during the set change. Touring with up-and-comer Mika may be just the thing to gain a solid fan base.

Nominated for Best Dance Recording at this year's Grammys, Mika has been encountering success lately. In 2007, he took home three trophies at the World Music Award and his album *Life in Cartoon Motion*, released last February, reached number one in the European Top 100. It made it to number two in Canada, but was only number 29 in the United States. Still, his album reached triple platinum worldwide and is going strong.

During the show, Mika told the story of releasing his album in North America. He was advised to leave out a song that had homosexual references because he was told it wouldn't go over well with conservative listeners. The song tells the lighthearted story of a man who has a homosexual love affair. Giggling as he started playing the first notes of "Billy Brown," the crowd went wild. Apparently Canada received the message much better than our neighbours of the south.

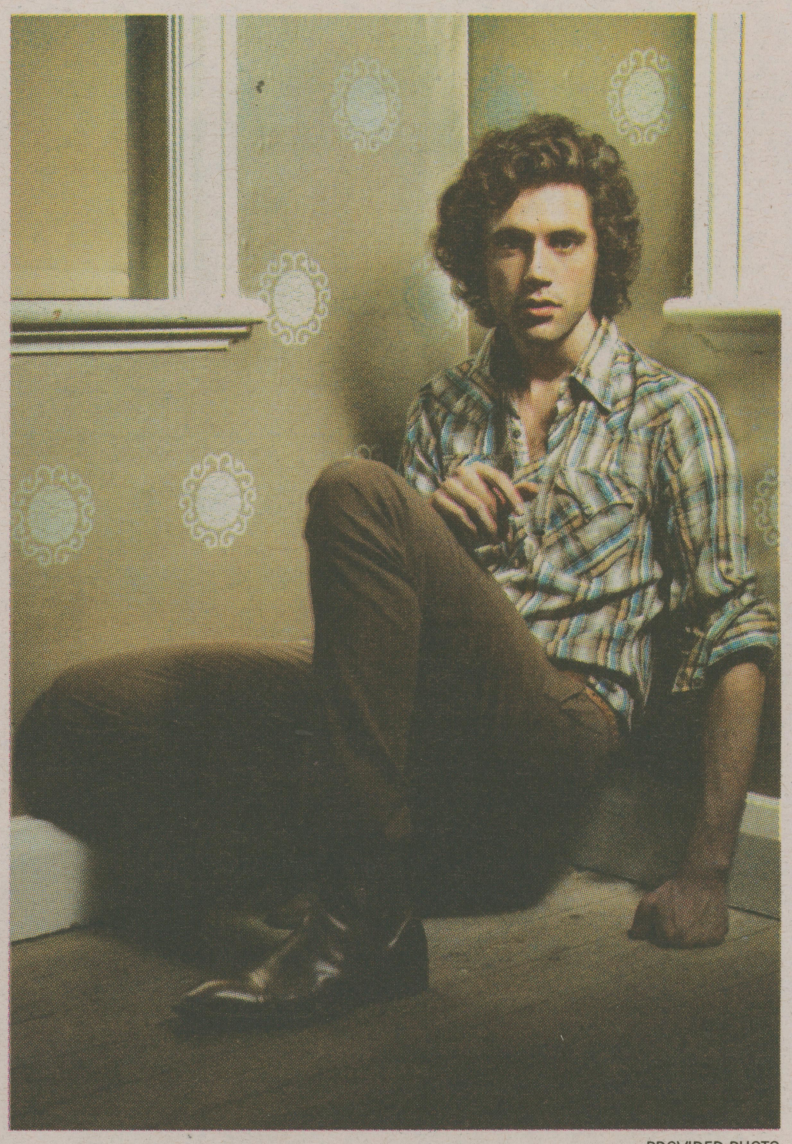
Homosexuality isn't the only touchy subject that Mika addresses. His song "Big Girls You Are Beautiful" has become an anthem for large women proud of their curvy figures. Mika's tiny frame singing, "A whole lotta woman needs a whole lot more" is enough of a déjà vu of Freddie's "Fat Bottom Girls" to warrant the suspicions that he is in fact the reincarnation of Mr. Mercury.

> You wouldn't know that it was Mika's first tour in Canada.

Mika will have to be careful not to be a one-album-wonder as he now goes to work on his second. *Life in Cartoon Motion* was so unlike anything else that came out last year that producing something too similar would run the risk of predictability and creating anything sounding much different would disappoint. As with most other pop sensations, Mika's second album will either make him or break him.

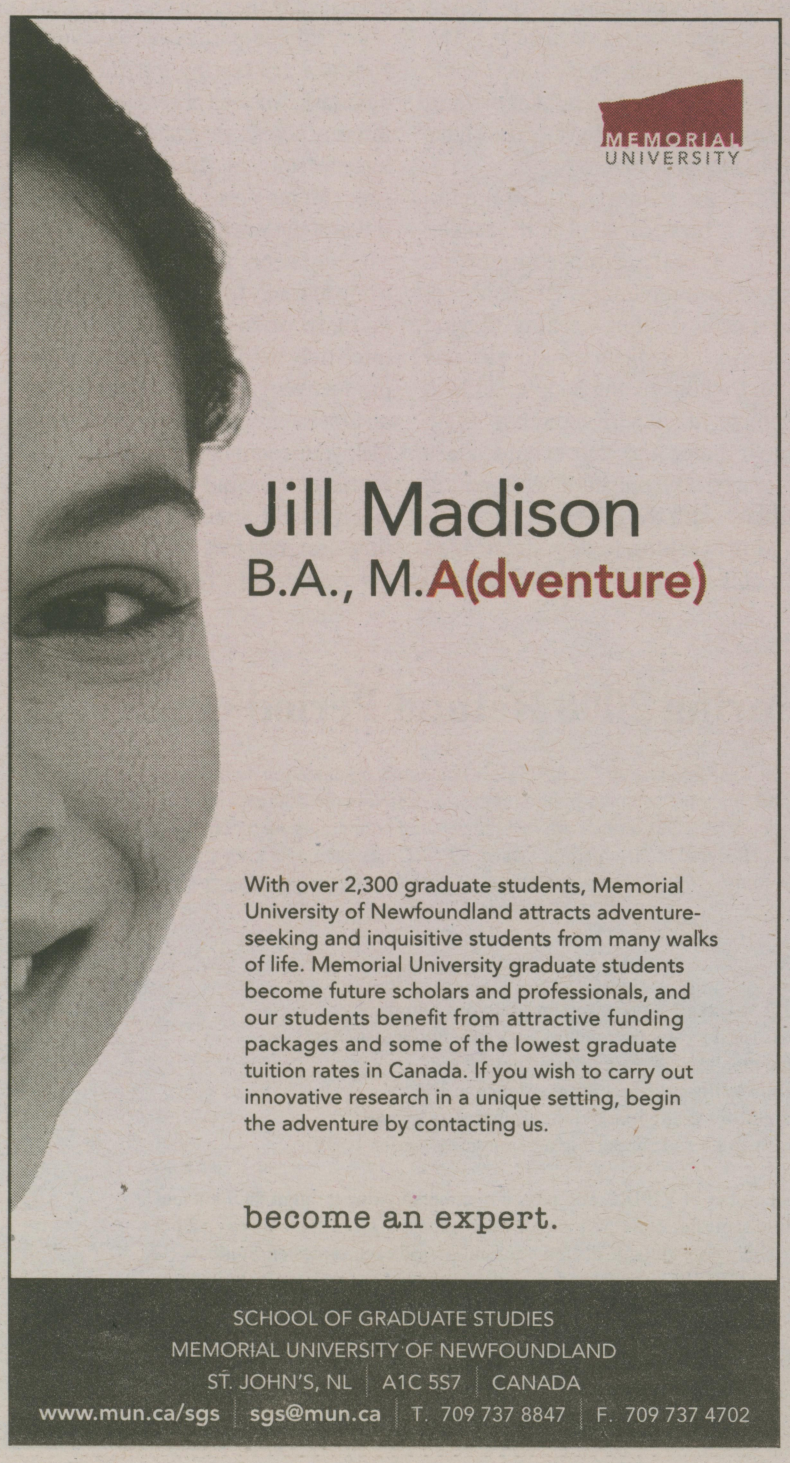
Either way, Mika said that he enjoyed his tour. When asked if he would ever return to Canada, Mika's eyes brightened.

"Fuck yeah."



PROVIDED PHOTO

British pop star Mika played at the Orpheum Theatre on Feb. 15.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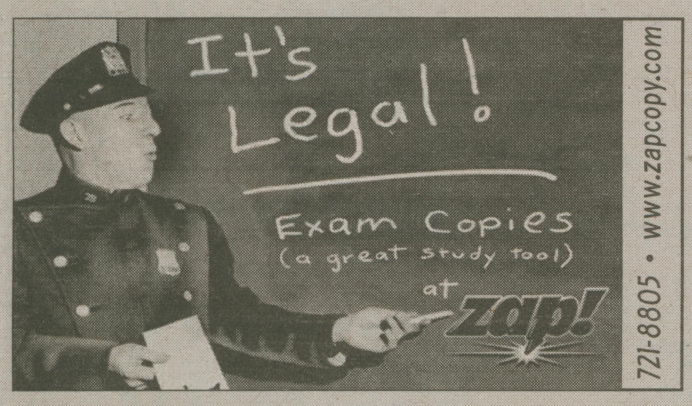
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Multi-tasking leaves your head spinning

Lynda Pupo

JENNIFER ZHOU GRAPHIC

Many students study while listening to music, conversing with roommates and chatting on instant messenger. Few have the luxury of time, and people often try to compensate by doing everything at once.

In the corporate world, being able to multi-task has been a sign of strength.

"A good worker multi-tasks according to your company," said Keith Alford, who works as a "tech guy" for many downtown Victoria offices.

Today's technology may make it easier to stay in touch while away from the office, but it takes practice. So texting on your cell while listening to a lecture may actually be prepping you for your future.

> In the corporate world, multi-tasking has been a sign of strength ... imagine if your prof lectured with one hand while eating dinner with the other.

"[Your boss] expects to be able to reach you no matter what," Alford said. "It's stressful."

Alford's pants are weighed down by the mandatory multi-tasking devices: cellphone, pager and Blackberry.

In a commercial for Centrum vitamins, office workers are shown happily juggling multiple things at once (a phone, stapler and sandwich). "Centrum: a multivitamin for multi-taskers," the narrator proclaims.

But there's a difference between juggling and multi-tasking. Juggling refers to dealing with multiple things — a full course load, job, partner, child, pet or hobby — all managed in their own blocks of time. Multi-tasking, however, involves focusing on every activity at once: talking to your friend, typing to another and studying simultaneously.

When you've got loads to do and only a little time, which option should you choose?

"Multi-tasking may seem more efficient on the surface, but may actually take more time in the end," says a 2001 study published by the American Psychological Association. The study found that every time a topic is switched, the brain takes several tenths of a second to refocus. That's valuable time lost.

Still, the media portrays the image of the successful multi-tasker. A Campbell's Soup commercial shows women multi-tasking at rapid speeds: driving, working, playing piano or picking up the kid with one hand, while holding Soup at Hand to "enjoy" lunch with the other. Imagine if the prof of your evening class lectured with one hand while eating dinner with the other.

Multi-tasking is not encouraged in classrooms. Bringing a laptop to class may be acceptable, but a person checking their e-mail, flipping through photo albums or playing Tetris creates a problem. Television news magazine *20/20* discussed "rudeness in America," blaming the rise of technology for "public multi-taskers."

Using these devices is considered the "new rude." But is it all just practice for the future?

Several companies across North America are testing out the "anti-multitask." Instead of giving everyone Internet access, they have monitored Internet stations. The employee must check for messages at predetermined times of the work day.

It may seem faster to do everything at once, but in reality that's a myth. So when you're about to lock into study mode, make things more productive. Turn off your phone, the instant messenger, the music — and kick your roommate out. Wait a few tenths of a second for your brain to catch up. Sit alone in that block of time designed just for studying, and give your head a rest.

VIPIRG Spring 2008 Refund Period

The Vancouver Island Public Interest Research Group (VIPIRG) is a non-profit organization dedicated to research, education, advocacy, and other action in the public interest. Located in the Student Union Building of the University of Victoria, VIPIRG is a place where students and community members connect to work together on social justice and environmental issues. VIPIRG has been operating since 1983, when UVic students voted to join BC PIRG. For publications and information on working groups and events see www.vipirg.ca

VIPIRG's achievements include:

- successfully lobbying UVic to create a recycling program on campus
- research that was the basis for the establishment of a community dental clinic
- putting cruise ships on the map as a local environmental issue
- ongoing research and action to improve income assistance in BC
- getting students course credit for doing research for community groups
- establishing a native plant garden and supporting a community garden at UVic

Refunds: Every UVic student is a member of VIPIRG and pays a membership due through their student fees. Undergrads pay $3 per full time semester or $1.50 per part time semester. Grad students pay $2 per semester. This fee is refundable by cheque to students during a refund period each semester. Students who receive a refund lose access to the VIPIRG library and programming, and are no longer eligible to vote in VIPIRG elections or stand for election to the VIPIRG Coordinating Collective.

The **Spring 2008 Refund Period** will be held **Monday, March 10, 2008 – Tuesday March 25, 2008**. Refund forms can be picked up at the VIPIRG office in SUB B122. More info: 721-8629. Forms will be posted outside the office for the convenience of students coming outside office hours.

CD REVIEWS

Mainstream music sticking to norm

Spice Girls will have you singing and dancing along, still wondering what zig-a-zag-ah means.

Greatest Hits
Spice Girls
VIRGIN

Greatest hits compilations suck.

Bands are supposed to release new albums to show off what they've been working on, how they've grown and evolved. But with greatest hits CDs, they're able to make money without doing any real work. And any real fan will already have all of the songs on the original albums, save for the token previously unreleased tracks that were probably previously unreleased for a reason: they're no good.

But *Greatest Hits*, the first Spice Girls CD to be released in seven years, is actually worth the investment, especially since you probably sold your Spice Girls CDs at a garage sale a few years ago and have regretted it just a little bit ever since. For anyone who grew up in the '90s, listening to *Greatest Hits* is guaranteed to bring a certain sense of nostalgia.

The Spice Girls exploded onto the world stage in 1996 with the release of their debut album *Spice*. The album's catchy pop lyrics and the girls' overt sex appeal immediately caught the attention of audiences.

All of those catchy lyrics are back on *Greatest Hits*, and listeners might be surprised to remember all of the words. "Wannabe," the Spice Girls' first single, will have you singing and dancing along, still wondering what exactly zig-a-zag-ah means.

Hearing the opening la la la's of "Spice Up Your Life," from 1997's *Spiceworld* is sure to bring back memories of the short skirts and ridiculously tall platform shoes that the girls wore in their movie. And while it was probably one of the worst films of all time, *Spice World* was mindless fun and probably made you laugh hysterically when it came out in 1997.

While some songs haven't changed, others have gained entirely new meaning since their original release. "Mama" was about the Spice Girls' relationships with their mothers when it was first released on *Spice*. Now, four members of the group are mothers themselves, with Mel C (a.k.a. Sporty Spice) being the only one without a child.

The best part of *Greatest Hits* is that the entire group is back together. When Geri Halliwell (a.k.a Ginger Spice) left the group in 1998, things went downhill. The other four members released another CD, *Forever*, in 2000, but it sold far less copies than *Spice* or *Spiceworld*. A Spice Girls reunion without Halliwell would have been incomplete.

Greatest Hits' two new songs "Voodoo" and "Headlines" aren't anything special. In fact, they sound a little bit like washed-up pop stars trying to make it big again. But really, no one's buying *Greatest Hits* for the new songs — they're picking it up because they loved the Spice Girls 10 years ago and they want to recapture that bit of their personal history.

- Gemma Karstens-Smith

It is Time for a Love Revolution
Lenny Kravitz
VIRGIN

It is Time for a Love Revolution, according to the title of Lenny Kravitz's latest CD. But the revolution is fraught with old, familiar sounds. Lenny's eighth studio album introduces 14 new tracks, all heavy with his signature distorted bluesy guitar and mellow rock beats. Hopefully you haven't gotten sick of that sound yet.

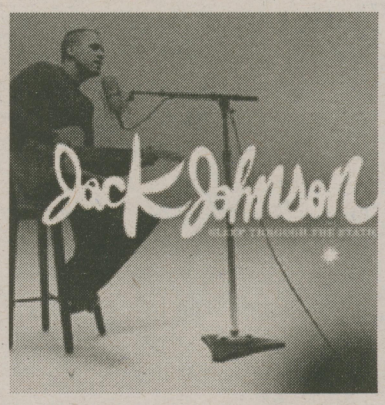
A couple of songs stand out as pop pleasers, such as the title track, which comes straight out of the gritty 60s era of rock. "Dancin' Til Dawn" is a funk-rock hybrid with some easy-listening appeal. Others, such as "Bring It On" and "Love Love Love," sound like a mixture of psychedelic Hendrix and Zeppellin-era slide guitar. The album also boasts a slower rock ballad "I'll Be Waiting." "A Long and Sad Goodbye" is the most collaborative piece on the album, with a guest appearance by accomplished violinist Cornelius Dufallo and Anoushka Shankar on sitar.

With a career spanning 20 years in the studio, Kravitz's musical offerings have shifted between upbeat and moody, with a few chart-toppers providing surprising longevity. His remake of the Guess Who's "American Woman" appeared in 1999's *Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me*.

Kravitz arranged and produced all the songs on his latest album. A single song on *Revolution* can showcase Kravitz on vocals, bass, lead guitar, drums, tambourine, piano, synthesizer, congas and cowbell. Skill with this many instruments is admittedly kickass, but tepid knowledge of many different instruments does not replace the lack of shining skill with any one.

While his range of influences is evident in his latest album, *Revolution* lacks musical complexity and is uninspiring. Apparently, it is time for a Lenny revolution.

- Charlotte Barrow



The problem with *Static* is that it sounds exactly like the other albums.

Sleep Through The Static
Jack Johnson
BRUSHFIRE RECORDS

Jack Johnson returns on his latest project, *Sleep Through the Static*, with his lilting voice, undulating guitar rhythms and a batch of catchy tunes. The problem is, they all sound exactly like the last album.

If Jack Johnson is your thing, this record won't disappoint. Johnson sticks to the formula for this disk — even the keenest listener won't find many surprises. There are the same wandering pop melodies in "Go On," "Enemy" and "Same Girl," and some more exotic flourishes in "They Do, They Don't."

But the disk is dominated by Johnson's penchant for lullabies, such as "All At Once" and "While We Wait." The lullabies blend into one another and the result, while pretty, is a bit hum-drum.

Johnson has an ear for the relaxed, soothing, and playful sounds that endear him to his fans, and this album would be an excellent soundtrack for a romantic dinner. Just don't listen to it while driving at night.

- Spencer Anderson

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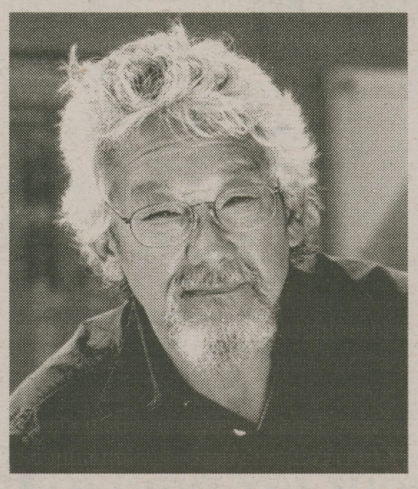

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Time: 12pm
Place: Michele Pujol Room
Tickets available at the UVSS Info Booth

GWYNNE DYER
"After Iraq"
Date: Wednesday March 5th
Time: 7:00pm
Place: Michele Pujol Room
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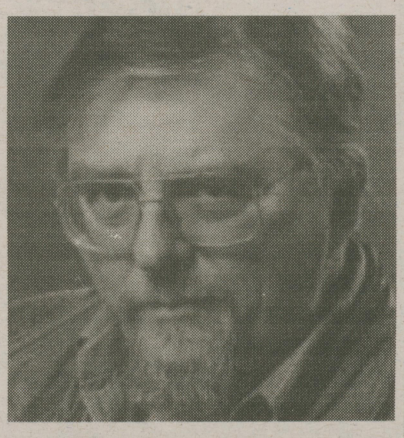
$20 general public



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Lionel delivers no miracles to UVic audience

Melanie Tromp

Lionel the Miracle Man delivers a disappointing first show for the Phoenix Theatre's 2008 season, needing nothing short of a miracle to keep the audience engaged from the first scene to the curtain call.

This production marks the premiere of Montreal-based playwright Pan Bouyoucas's *Lionel*, appearing 14 years after the script was originally penned. The late start might send up red flags that the play falls short in production possibilities, but director and master's of fine arts hopeful Ewan McLaren plowed onwards with this dramatic comedy, only to create a substandard show.

Lionel follows the title character's roller-coaster ride to 1920s-era stardom, beginning with his poor Québécois roots, tenor voice and tiny frame (just four-foot-four) that sets up an overplayed rags-to-riches tale — except Bouyoucas has thrown a dwarf-turned-giant into the mix.

With his mother's support, Lionel (played by Carey Wass) sets off with a trio of strangers, only to become a sideshow freak before breaking rank with the troupe leader and leaving for Hollywood with new pal and violinist, a black alcoholic named Sunshine (Sam Mullins).

The show shuttles through Lionel and Sunshine's experience panhandling, where the audience learns that Lionel literally grows when he sings. This bizarre twist is neither plausible nor particularly exciting — Lionel's incredible tenor voice, sung by Isaiah Bell, is much more compelling — but the character's growth spurt becomes the gimmick that lands him and Sunshine with contracts in Tinseltown.

The latter half of the production sees Lionel continue to grow in stature and ego, as well as an unsexy love triangle between Lionel, his assistant Maggie (Nicole Fraissinet) and his bodyguard Jake (Jason Moldowan). Lionel and Maggie's kisses are awkward (think two faces mashed together too long, sans tongue) and Lionel never seems to actually care for Maggie — or anybody, really — making him an unlovable hero at best. While Lionel's ambition leads him to commit a few dark deeds, they seem unmotivated in this strange play that ends abruptly with a pile of deaths. Sunshine dies in jail and Lionel's former priest shows up to tell Lionel about his mother's death, only to writhe to his own end while nobody apparently notices. Lionel himself dies at the last second, but Shakespearean tragedy this is not. All of the deaths seem so rushed, the ending appears only to be an easy-out ploy, leaving the audience utterly bewildered.

Lionel attempts to forge a commentary about racial injustice, prejudice and the world of celebrities — in about 100 minutes of scattered stage time. Stranger still are the constant references Lionel makes to Jesus, outing himself as some brand of 20th-century Messiah, sacrificing himself for the so-called greater good. This parallel is never justified and is as laughable as Britney Spears comparing her woes with the work of Mother Teresa.

JON FAULKNOR PHOTO

Carey Wass preaches as Lionel at the Phoenix Theatre.

Race-neutral casting sat uncomfortably, as Sunshine's ethnicity is denoted only by two smears of black war paint on his Caucasian cheekbones. The makeup itself is confusing throughout the play, with some characters heavily done up and hairy while others are almost natural under the spotlights. Wass brought energy to the lead character in an attempt to give Lionel meaning and focus, and he managed the role's physicality well (from playing a dwarf on his knees to a giant on stilts). Fraissinet is an obvious talent, but did not have much to work with in loyal Maggie, a character that lacked depth.

The bright star in this production was the supporting role of comedic Hollywood diva Linda Brava, played brilliantly by third-year acting student Kaitlin Williams. Williams' over-the-top rendition of the studio-darling fit well in the bizarre story, toying with the characters and evoking laughs from the audience during her few minutes on stage.

And while set designer Jennifer Quinn made excellent use of silhouettes and back projections, the theatre space itself was a problem, as tenor Isaiah Bell and violinist Pauline Edwards were visible throughout the play and much more interesting to watch than lip-synching Wass and faux-playing Mullins.

The production failed to make up for what Bouyoucas' script lacked. Even McLaren's direction couldn't save the play, which undermined an otherwise talented cast and crew.

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T-Birds down Vikes to take division title

Shun Endo
THE UBYSSEY

VANCOUVER — The UBC Thunderbirds ended the season for the UVic Vikes men's basketball team, winning the Pacific Division finals in a best-of-three series on Feb. 22 and 23.

The matchup marked the fourth consecutive year that the Vikes have gone up against the T-Birds in the Pacific Division finals.

On Feb. 22 the classic rivalry started with UBC manipulating the pace of the game. UBC forward Bryson Kool scored four of his field goals in the first half as UBC shot 52 per cent from the field. The Vikes were contained to 34 per cent.

The game seemed like an easy win for the T-Birds, who held a 12-point lead after two frames. But the Vikes turned the game on its head, outscoring the T-Birds 26-7 in the third quarter. Fourth-year forward Tyler Hass led the Vikes with 19 points in the game.

"I thought that they did a good job with that 19 point swing in the third quarter," said UBC coach Kevin Hanson. "They hit a lot of shots. I didn't think our defence was that bad, but [UVic] made some plays and they got some offensive rebounds."

The climax came in the fourth quarter, when an intense rally by UBC kept the score within a shot. With six minutes to go, fourth-year UBC guard Chris Dyck suddenly flipped the score with a rebound and a lay-up, followed by a three-pointer, putting the T-Birds ahead by two.

Hanson credited Dyck for stepping up despite his limited playing time due to foul trouble.

"He got some great penetration and he made some huge hoops for us there in the fourth," said Hanson.

UVic kept fighting until the last minute, with second-year guard Brandon Dunlop going for a buzzer-beating three-point shot. But the ball missed the hoop, and the T-Birds to took game one by a score of 70-67.

On Feb. 23, UBC dominated game two. Hass put up a 23-point performance, but it wasn't enough to secure a Vikes win. The T-Birds took the game 86-77, clenching the Pacific Division title and ending the Vikes season.

Kool led the T-Birds with 11 rebounds and 18 points in game two. Dyck also had 18 points including back-to-back three pointers in the third quarter to maintain a comfortable lead. But Dyck's biggest play of the night was a hope-ending block on Hass with 1:40 remaining in the game.

"We tried to pick up the tempo and push in transition and I thought we did a good job," said Hanson. "We didn't make too many bad decisions offensively."

- with files from Gemma Karstens-Smith

PHOTO COURTESY OF SHUN ENDO/THE UBYSSEY

UBC's Kyle Watson drives by Vikes forward Tyler Hass during the Pacific Division championships.

VIKES SCOREBOARD

MEN'S BASKETBALL
Feb. 22 UBC 70 Vikes 67
Feb. 23 UBC 86 Vikes 77

MEN'S RUGBY
Feb. 23 Melaroma 21 Vikes 16

MEN'S SOCCER
Feb. 17 Lynn 4 Vikes 1
Feb. 20 Florida Atlantic 1 Vikes 0
Feb. 22 Nova Southeastern 1 Vikes 0

WOMEN'S SOCCER
Feb. 16 Central Florida 2 Vikes 0
Feb. 19 Vikes 1 Florida Atlantic 1
Feb. 21 Vikes 3 Florida Gulf Coast 1
Feb. 22 Vikes 3 Lynn 2

UPCOMING GAMES

MEN'S RUGBY
Vikes vs. UBC
Wallace Field
March 1 @ 2:45 p.m.

MEN'S FIELD HOCKEY
Vikes vs. VRC Jokers
Field Hockey Pitch
March 2 @ 1:30 p.m.

MEN'S SOCCER
Vikes vs. the Vancouver Whitecaps
Centennial Stadium
March 9 @ 3 p.m.

WOMEN'S SOCCER
Vikes vs. the Vancouver Whitecaps
Centennial Stadium
March 9@ 1p.m.

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UVic curlers rock past bureaucracy to compete

Elizabeth Hames

Tough competition optional. That's the motto of the recently created UVic Curling Club.

Jessica Page, Mark Wright, and Grayson Hall started the Curling Club in October as a place for students to learn to curl and to improve their existing curling skills by competing in a casual, friendly atmosphere.

"This was our way of creating a club so that everybody could get a chance to try and see how fun it was," said Page.

"It's more fun just enjoying being out there and learning about the game as opposed to really being competitive about it," said Wright.

Every Sunday the club meets at the Victoria Curling Club from 8 to 10 p.m. to compete amongst the club's 12 teams of four. The skills of the members range from the most basic beginner to people who have been curling for years.

"Grayson and Mark have always been avid curlers who take on a tutoring role," said Alex Bjornson, a member of the club.

"They give the new people a really quick-and-dirty clinic of how to curl the basics," added Page. "That's given everyone the tools to get started, and we loan them all equipment from the Victoria Curling Club, so you don't need your own equipment to play."

It hasn't all been easygoing for the Curling Club. Wright and Hall have been curling together for years but encountered difficulties in getting permission from UVic to go to the Canadian Interuniversity Sport/Canadian Curling Association Curling Championships. Write and Hall were told that they couldn't go into any event without belonging to an organized club.

PROVIDED PHOTO

Members of the UVic Curling Club hit the ice to practise their technique.

"So, we started a club," said Wright.

Soon after starting the UVic Curling Club, Hall and Wright formed a men's team with Trystyn Berg and Tyler Jones. They then went to the sports club programmer for permission to go to the championships, but were again faced with bureaucratic difficulties.

"We didn't have an official answer from UVic ... and the application deadline for the event was Jan. 9," said Wright. "We had to go to the event and ask for a conditional application to submit."

The delay in getting permission from UVic to attend the event meant that the Curling Club's women's team was unable to apply.

Andrew Pitre, sports club programmer, said that the curling club had to go through "a few more hoops in this situation because of the nature of the event" and because they are a new club.

"Curling is not a varsity sport [at UVic]," said Wright. "It's not a big deal that we're not, but to the university it kind of was."

UVic worked with the club "to start structuring a little bit more of how and what clubs need to do to be competitive and represent the university at championship levels," said Pitre. "They really have been the pioneer in this new issue that we've needed to address for a while."

Despite the complications they faced when applying for the championships, the UVic Curling Club has been successful.

After creating a Facebook group and manning a booth at Clubs and Course Union Days the club is currently full and won't be accepting members until next year.

"We're full at the moment, but we'd love people to keep us in mind for next year," said Page. "We really want to see this keep going and be a legacy for UVic."

PROVIDED PHOTO

UVic Ultimate Club member Matt Harvey goes for a pass.

Ultimate Club, ultimate battle

Andrew Smith

Playing ultimate may be a blast, but for members of UVic's Ultimate Club, the sport is about more than fun. These club members are out to win.

They may be registered as a club, but it only takes a brief viewing of their training sessions to realize the Ultimate Club are a determined sports team. About eight years ago, the program saw UVic dominate their tournaments, annihilating every team in their path. Each player now sports the slogan "UVICTIM" proudly across their shoulders.

Participation in the Ultimate Club is open to the UVic community, but only a select few are sent to competitions. The club currently has its strongest numbers in years, with 25 men and 15 women participating in the intense training sessions, which include full drill sessions and scrimmages. Now that there is a larger pool of players to select from, the squad has its sights set on winning some major titles.

Last year the Ultimate Club men's team went to the national championships. They didn't fare well, but the intense competition was beneficial to the team.

"The tournament was a good experience for a young team," said John Norris, an Ultimate Club captain.

Now the team is meeting three nights a week to prepare for a series of spring competitions. March will see a select few of UVic's finest ultimate players head to Tacoma, Wash. to compete in a tournament known as Dirty Deeds. If the squad fares well in sectional competitions, they could advance to nationals to compete for the title.

But it's not just the men who are itching to win. The women's side has a competitive squad with 15 participants who practice twice a week. All 15 players will likely go to the next tournament. Several of the players compete in intramurals with members of the men's team, allowing for extra training outside of the club.

"In Victoria, women's ultimate goes through different phases," said Katy Cochrain, another Ultimate Club captain. "This year has seen a lot more participation."

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- Gemma Karstens-Smith

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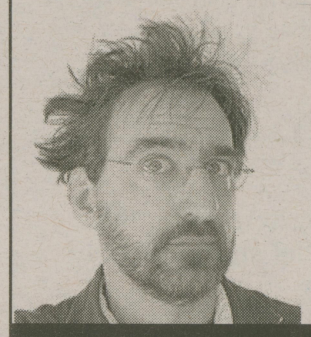

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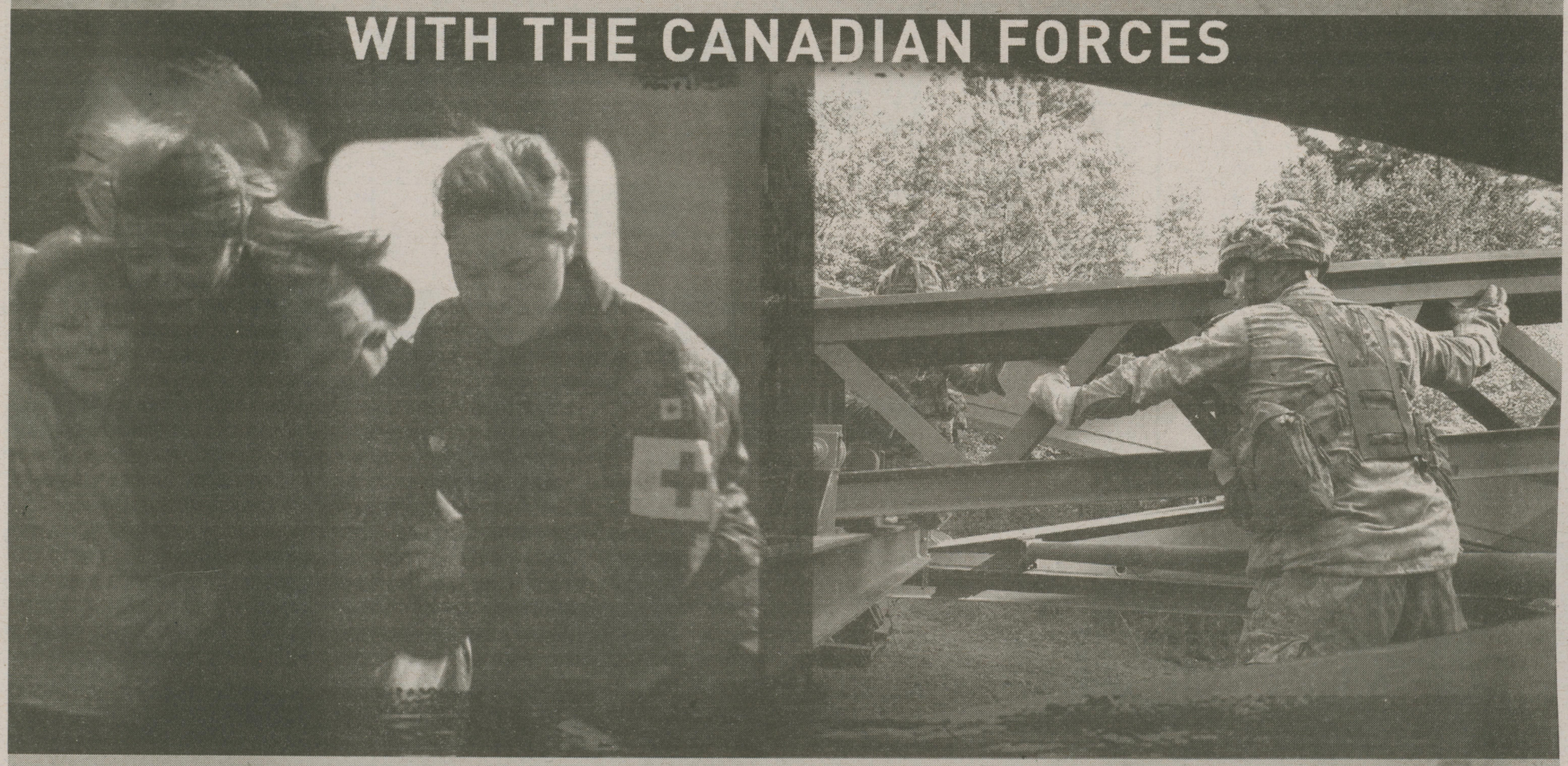

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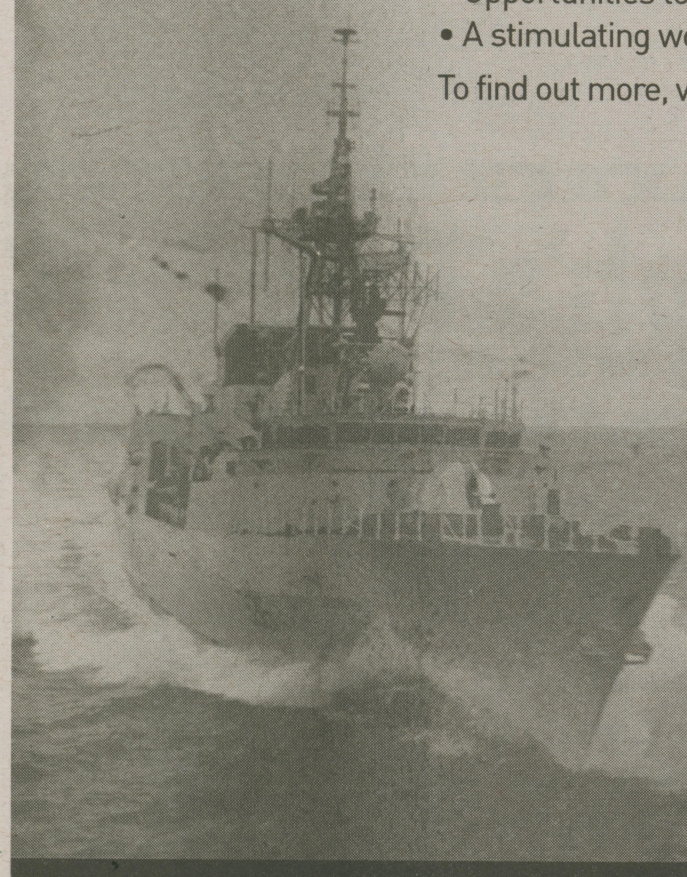

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9			8		1			4
	2						5	
	7		4	6	2		1	
8		1		7		9		3
6		2		4		7		5
	6		2	8	4		9	
	1						6	
4			6		9			2

LOOK-ALIKES

Jodie Foster, actor and star of *Panic Room*

Amy Verdun, UVic political science professor

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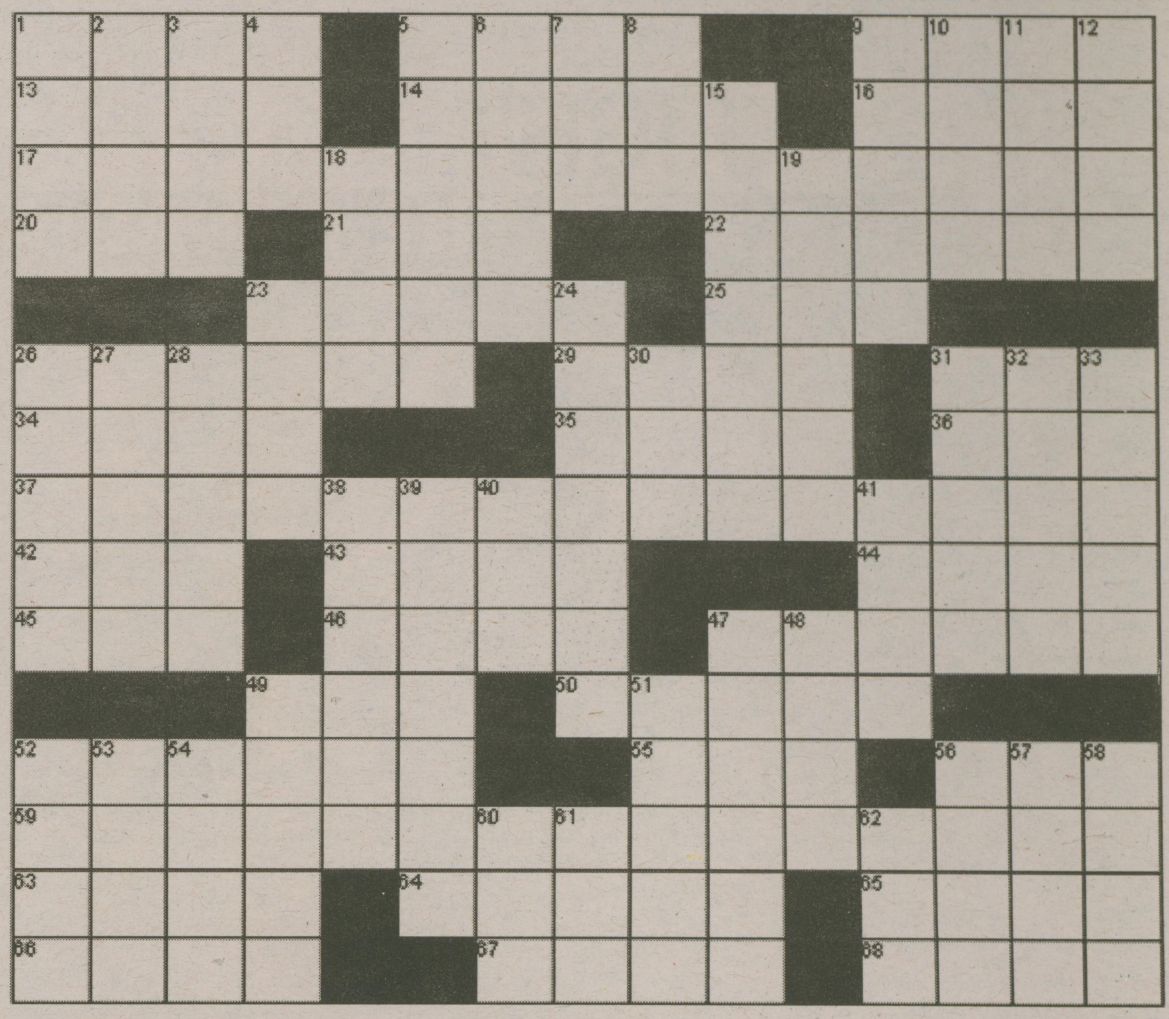
The Ontarion Crossword by Krystian Imgrum (CUP)



Across

1. Degenerates
5. Area unit
9. Chinese dynasty
13. Jim Davis' dog
14. Frank
16. October's stone
17. Small and large countries
20. Meddle
21. Eurasian nomad
22. Ancient (hyph.)
23. Depend
25. Melodist Doris
26. Far and wide
29. Similar
31. Limit
34. Repents
35. Skin
36. Number 4
37. Old and new countries
42. Delivery corp.
43. "I cannot tell ____"
44. Inco's products
45. 112.5° (abbr.)
46. Actor Beatty, et al.
47. Adulterate
49. Delay
50. Genuinely
52. Fleet
55. Geographic system: abbr.
56. Seashell seller
59. Island and coastal countries
63. Peck film, with "The"
64. Full house number
65. Creatures of 4 Down
66. Sieves for gold
67. TO epidemic
68. Clamp

Down

1. Play
2. Perspiration property
3. Minute
4. Hemmingway setting
5. Plentiful
6. Metallic sound
7. Down or away
8. Terminus
9. Saunter
10. ____ Facto
11. Carpenter's tool
12. Bag maker
15. Investor's specialty
18. Green pet?
19. Elephant country
23. Water spout
24. Sincere
26. Contest
27. Makes a faux pas
28. Actress Witherspoon
30. Joke
31. Mongoose prey
32. The Ram
33. Green chalcedony
38. Multicultural country
39. Chic
40. First or foreign
41. Melville character
47. Obligations
48. Shade trees
49. Suburbia features
51. Less courteous
52. On
53. Clarke novel, Rendezvous with ____
54. Demeanour
56. Indian dress
57. Cluckers
58. Otherwise
60. Tongue depressor responses
61. Heston's org.
62. Intimidate a dragster

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ON CAMPUS

THURSDAY, FEB. 28

Film - UVic Law's DACEC Race and Law Movie Series: Rabbit-Proof Fence

5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Murray and Anne Fraser Building, Room 158

UVic Law's Dean's Advisory Committee on Ethnicity and Culture (DACEC) invites you to the Race and Law Movie Series! Join us as we explore how race issues interact with the law. Hope to see you there!

Fee: Free
Info: dacec@uvic.ca

FRIDAY, FEB. 29

The Mosqoy Leap Year Benefit Concert

8 p.m.

Student Union Building, Felicitas.

Solomon Wells and Oh Snap! will be performing. The concert is to raise money for the Mosqoy Youth Bank in Peru.

For more information about mosqoy, the website is www.mosqoy.com.

Fee: $7
Info: dacec@uvic.ca

Theatre - Phoenix Theatre: FIND Studio Series

7:00 - 10:00 p.m.

Uvic, Pheonix Theatre

FIND (Festival of Innovative and New Drama) Studio Series presented in collaboration with the Department of Writing.

A series of eight one-act plays written by emerging playwrights from the Department of Writing and performed and directed by Theatre Students. Celebrate the talented artists of the future in a casual and funky coffeehouse setting. Audiences can pick and choose the plays that most interest them or stay for the entire evening.

Fee: Ticket pricing TBA. Tickets at the door
Info: phoenix@uvic.ca

SATURDAY, MAR. 1

The Good Life: Persian Frontispieces as Cultural Icons

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Fine Arts Building, Room 103

A world authority on Medieval Islamic architecture and Persian manuscript painting, Professor Robert Hillenbrand is the author of numerous articles, chapters, books and edited collections.

Fee: Free
Info: 721-7942

Engineers Without Borders UVIC present: "Jammin' for Change"

8 p.m.

Student Union Building, Felicitas

With Bands: Versa, Acidwash, and DJ Beau Stasiuk. All proceeds go towards E.W.B. UVIC.

Fee: Tickets $5 in advance/ $8 at the door

MONDAY, MAR. 3

Lecture/Seminar - David Suzuki

12 - 2 p.m.

Student Union Building, Michele Pujol Room

David Suzuki will be joining us as a part of his "Generations Tour" to speak to students about how they can create sustainability and how to foster campus communities to create positive environmental change.

Unfortunately, due to limited seating this event is not open to the general public. Tickets can be picked up from the SUB Info Booth: one per person with valid UVic or Camosun student ID.

Fee: Suggested donation of $10
Info: Tracy Ho chair@uvss.uvi.ca

Lecture/Seminar - Building a World Beyond War

3:30 - 5:00 p.m.

Uvic, Interfaith Chapel

Beyond War is about putting together the ideas that war is obsolete in the nuclear age, that we are all interconnected and that we need to work together to build a world beyond war. If people adopt those ideas, their actions will bring about the changes we need in our homes, our environment, communities and beyond. This presentation will introduce the principles necessary to for a person, organization or nation to move beyond war and in resolving conflict without violence.

Loni and Christopher Bowers are founding directors of Beyond War Canada. They worked extensively in the 80's in Vancouver to promote Beyond War. They now work on projects to strengthen literacy, team building and community development for individuals, organizations and community groups.

Fee: Free
Info: 721-8338

TUESDAY, MAR. 4

Lecture/Seminar - Understanding and Enhancing Your Financial Well-being

12:30 - 1:20 p.m.

Harry Hickman Building, Room 105

In this presentation, Julie Jaggernath from the Credit Counselling Society will take you on a journey exploring your financial well-being.

To register go to the Human Resources Training calendar at http://web.uvic.ca/hr/training

Fee: Free
Info: 853-3181

WEDNESDAY, MAR. 5

Lecture/Seminar - Using Virtual Environments (Second Life) as Classroom Meeting Space

6:30 - 8 p.m.

Harry Hickman Building, Room 1288

Virtual worlds, such as Second Life, have become active venues in which to engage with students, with some educational institutions holding their regular classes "in world." This workshop will look at virtual spaces, what is being done, and how instructors could incorporate virtual worlds into their courses, labs, and/or tutorials. This is workshop is part of the TA ProD series, proudly brought to you by the UVic Learning and Teaching Centre. Pre-registration is appreciated.

Fee: Free
Info: Carolyn Boss 721-857

LIVE CONCERTS

FRIDAY, FEB. 29

Fury and the Mouse, Imps, The Pickles @ Logan's Pub

9 p.m.

The fifty fifty arts collective present A Leap Year and Frog Extravaganza: Fury and the Mouse, Imps, The Pickles @ Logan's Pub (No Minors).

Fee: $7

Bloody Betty and the Deadly Sins, Gynosaurus X, Bettina May @ Lucky

8 p.m

Bloody Betty presents a Fetsh/Gorelesque show featuring her Deadly Sins and special guest Bettina May, plus music by Gynosaurus X. Costume contest too!

Fee: $15

SATURDAY, MAR. 1

Elmores, Auntie Kate & the Uncles of Funk, THE GARY PRESTON BAND, The Deb Rhymer Band, Soul Shakers @ Hermann's Jazz Club

Doors open at 4 p.m.

Elmores, Auntie Kate & the Uncles of Funk, THE GARY PRESTON BAND, The Deb Rhymer Band, Soul Shakers @ Hermann's Jazz Club (No Minors). Tickets At: s.wadsworth@telus.net

Fee: $10

SOLID! with DJ Longshanks @ Lucky Bar

Doors open at 9 p.m.

SOLID - DJ Longshanks spins an eclectic mix of Post-Everything dance music... plus rare mixes and remixes. Hear it here now or everywhere else later. (No Minors).

Fee: $6

Jennifer Louise Taylor with Good Company @ Ocean Wilderness Inn

Doors open at 7 p.m

Roots music to set your toes a tapping in a beautiful setting. Jennifer Louise Taylor with Good Company (All Ages). Tickets At: Ocean Wilderness Inn 250-646-2116

Fee: $12

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VOLUNTEER

Looking for new growth? Open your heart & volunteer with us. NEED Crisis and Information Line Training starts April 19th Next Information Session Monday, March 17th at 6:30pm UVic Sub Room 110B Call 386-6329 or see web for details www.needcrisis.bc.ca

Do you have what it takes be a St. John Ambulance Volunteer? We are now recruiting for the First Aid Brigade and the Therapy Dog program.

Our Volunteer First Aid Brigade is called out to hundreds of events in the Greater Victoria region every year. Our dedicated members come from all walks of life. What makes them unique is their advanced first aid training and community spirit. If you want to find out more about joining this dynamic group of volunteers call Laurie at 388-5505 x106 at St. John Ambulance.

Therapy Dogs: Do you have a cheerful personality and is your dog well mannered? St. John Ambulance is recruiting dogs and their owners for our Therapy Dog volunteer program. To find our more call Laurie at St. John Ambulance at 388-5505 x106.

To submit an event, please email: promo@martlet.ca by Monday

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> Information Technology Management*
> Operations Management*

*relevant business degree required

Contact: Mary Tiberghien, 604.432.8385

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> Business Administration (Post-Diploma)
> Human Resource Management

Contact: Liz Moran, 604.451.7019

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> Professional Real Estate
> Entrepreneurship
> Marketing Communications
> Professional Sales
> Tourism Management

Contact: Jackie Laprise, 604.432.8293

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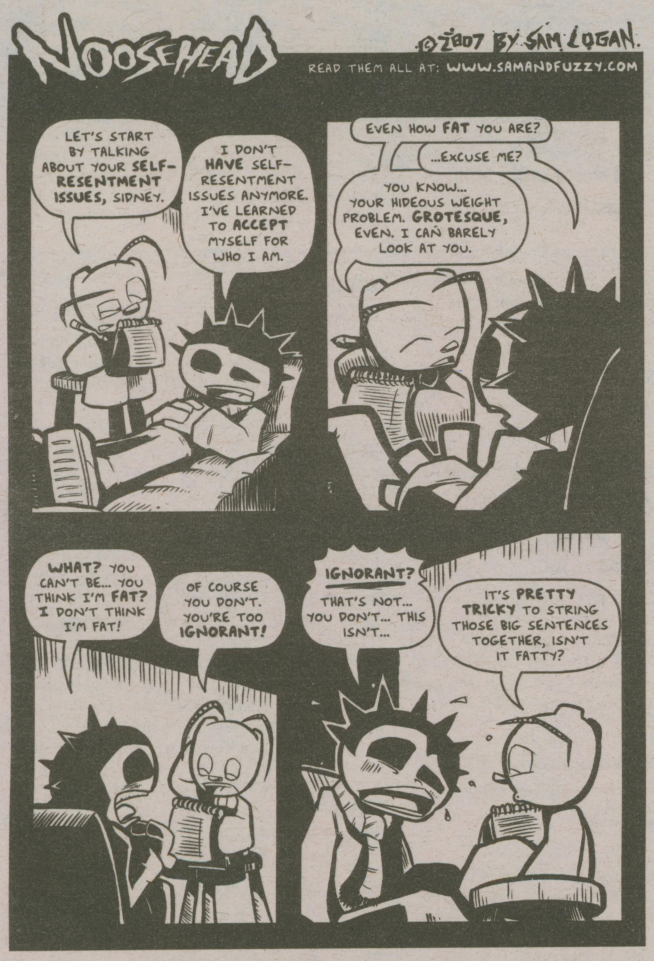
Comics


NOOSEHEAD
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READ THEM ALL AT: WWW.SAMANDFUZZY.COM
LET'S START BY TALKING ABOUT YOUR SELF-RESENTMENT ISSUES, SIDNEY.
I DON'T HAVE SELF-RESENTMENT ISSUES ANYMORE. I'VE LEARNED TO ACCEPT MYSELF FOR WHO I AM.
EVEN HOW FAT YOU ARE?
...EXCUSE ME?
YOU KNOW... YOUR HIDEOUS WEIGHT PROBLEM. GROTESQUE, EVEN. I CAN BARELY LOOK AT YOU.
WHAT? YOU CAN'T BE... YOU THINK I'M FAT? I DON'T THINK I'M FAT!
OF COURSE YOU DON'T. YOU'RE TOO IGNORANT!
IGNORANT?
THAT'S NOT... YOU DON'T... THIS ISN'T...
IT'S PRETTY TRICKY TO STRING THOSE BIG SENTENCES TOGETHER, ISN'T IT FATTY?

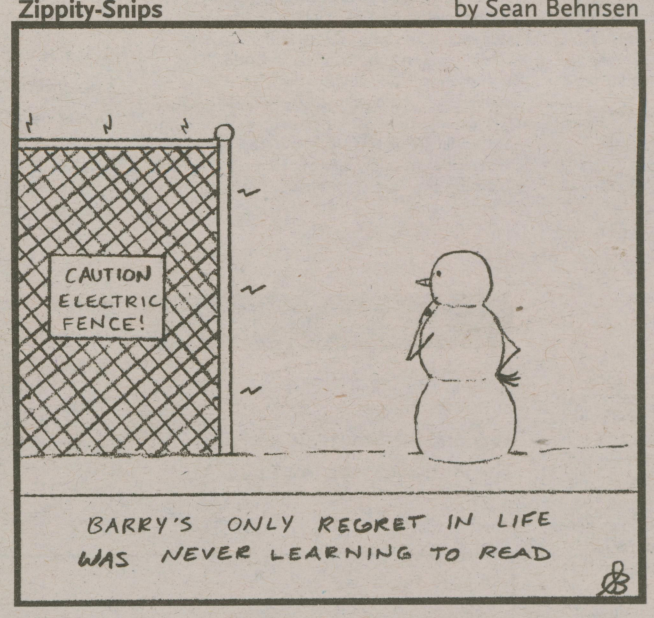
HALOL by Gordon Freeman

HALOL
Johnson, do you believe love can flourish on the battlefield?
How can you think of love with the economy and environment in crisis?
I have a man-crush on Al Gore!
He definitely heats my south pole!
lol global warming!

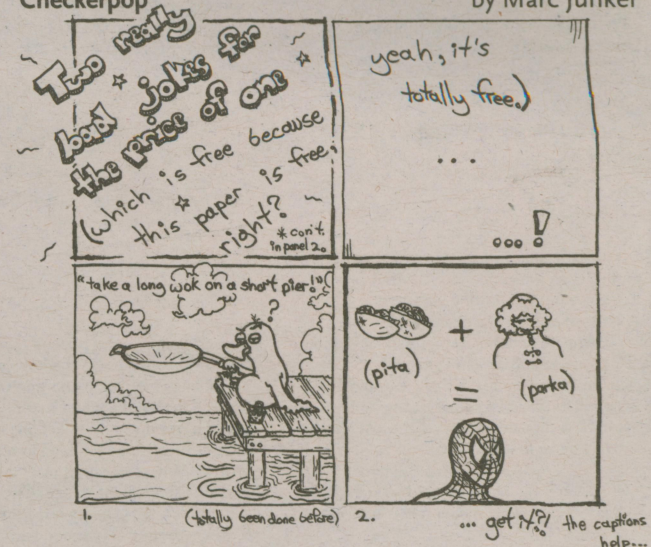
Felix and Mia by Liz Snell

STUDENTS TAKE DRASTIC MEASURES TO SAVE MONEY
SAVING ON WATER, SAVING ON WATER, SAVING...
SAVING ON FOOD, SAVING ON FOOD, SAVING...
E-Z BAKE
SAVING ON SHOES, SAVING ON SHOES...

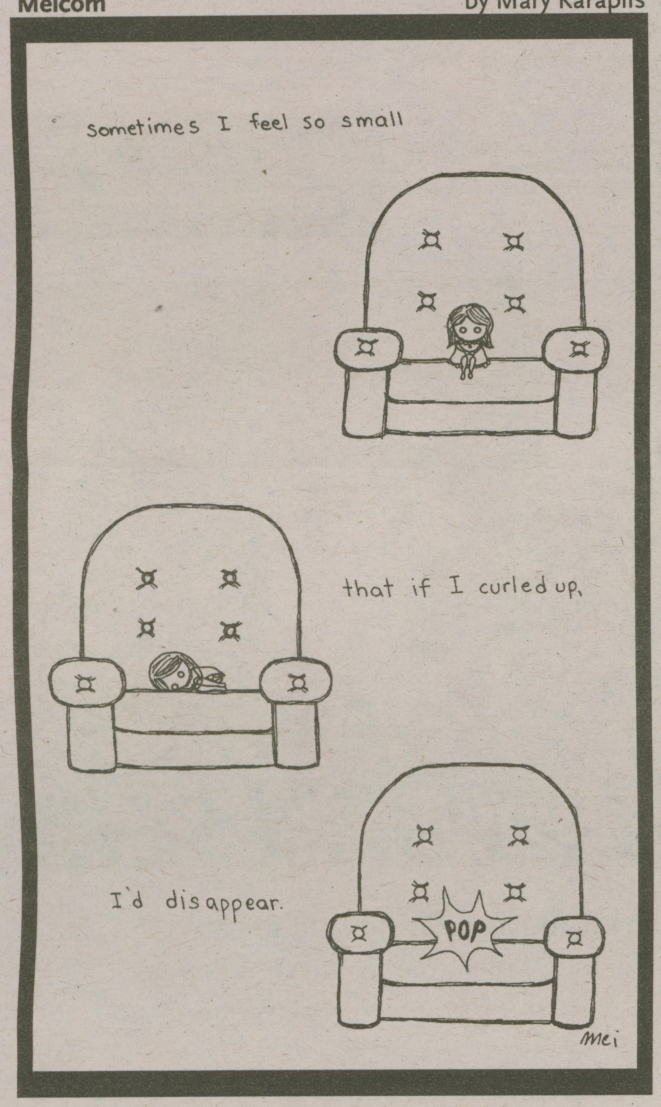
Zippity-Snips by Sean Behnsen



Checkerpop by Marc Junker


Two really bad jokes for the price of one (which is free because this paper is free, right?
yeah, it's totally free.)
...
!
take a long wok on a short pier.
(pita) + (parka) =
1. (totally been done before) 2. ... get it?! the captions help...

Meicom by Mary Karaplis



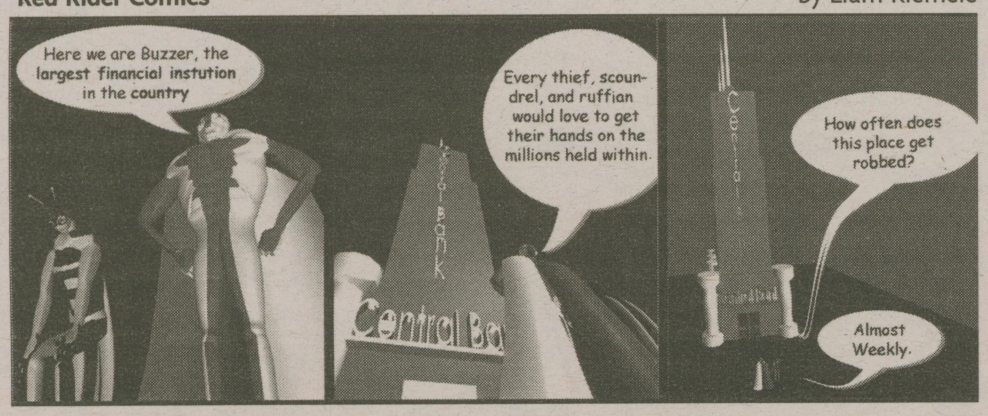
LESSONS LEARNED by Eamonn O'Connell

HAROLD HAD A BAD CASE OF FOOT-IN-MOUTH DISEASE

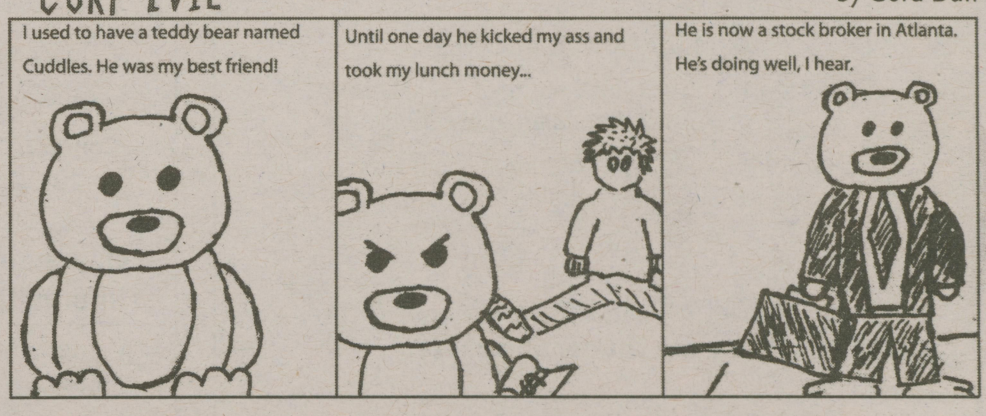
DATING A RAPPER by David Karp

"I swear I'm not assuming you're easy, yo. That's just how I wear my pants."

Red Rider Comics by Liam Kiemele


Here we are Buzzer, the largest financial instution in the country
Every thief, scoundrel, and ruffian would love to get their hands on the millions held within.
How often does this place get robbed?
Almost Weekly.

CORP EVIL by Gord Duff


I used to have a teddy bear named Cuddles. He was my best friend!
Until one day he kicked my ass and took my lunch money...
He is now a stock broker in Atlanta. He's doing well, I hear.

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2008 UVSS 2008

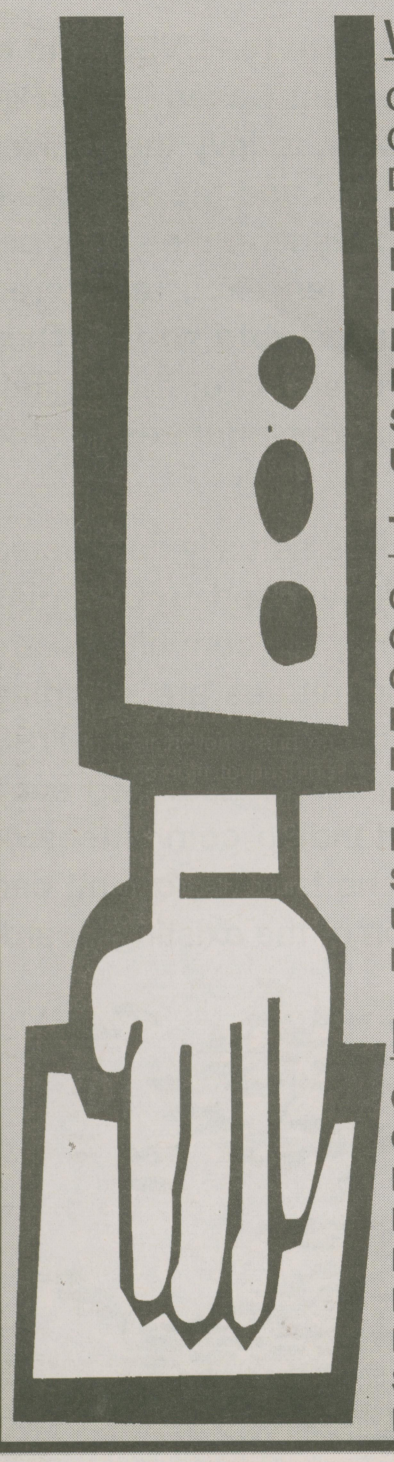
ELECTION PLATFORMS

for BOARD OF DIRECTORS
(Executive and Directors at Large)

BOARD OF GOVERNORS and SENATE

PLATFORMS

POLLING STATIONS MARCH 5-6-7



WEDNESDAY MARCH 5

Clearihue	9:00am - 8:00pm
Commons	5:00pm - 7:00pm
David Strong	10:30am - 1:30pm
Eng. Lab Wing	10:30am - 1:30pm
Fine Arts	10:30am - 1:30pm
Library	9:00am - 8:00pm
MacLaurin	9:00am - 4:00pm
McKinnon	9:00am - 12:00pm
SUB	9:00am - 4:00pm
University Centre	10:30am - 1:30pm

THURSDAY MARCH 6

Clearihue	9:00am - 8:00pm
Commons	5:00pm - 7:00pm
Cornett	1:00pm - 3:00pm
Elliott	10:30am - 1:30pm
Fraser	10:00am - 1:30pm
Library	9:00am - 8:00pm
MacLaurin	9:00am - 4:00pm
SUB	9:00am - 4:00pm
University Centre	10:30am - 1:30pm
ECS	9:00am - 4:00pm

FRIDAY MARCH 7

Clearihue	9:00am - 4:00pm
Cornett	10:30am - 1:30pm
David Strong	10:30am - 1:30pm
Elliott	10:30am - 1:30pm
Eng. Lab Wing	10:00am - 12:00pm
HSD	10:30am - 1:30pm
Library	9:00am - 4:00pm
SUB	9:00am - 4:00pm
ECS	9:00am - 4:00pm

ALL CANDIDATES FORUM

Candidates for the UVSS Board of Directors, Senate & BoG will be outlining their platforms and answering any questions you might have.

Thursday, February 28th/2008
4:30pm
HHB 105

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND WHAT IT DOES - A Brief Introduction

One of the more common misconceptions about the Students' Society is that the UVSS consists *of* the Board of Directors. The UVSS, in fact, is made up of the 17,000+ undergraduate students attending UVic, including the Board of Directors, who work on their behalf. To say that the Board *is* the UVSS is to deny the democratic mechanisms which are in place for students to effect change within their Society. Students can have input through participating in Students' Society committee meetings, Semi-Annual and Annual General Meetings and in General Elections.

The Board of Directors (BoD) is a body of students elected by students, to allocate the Students' Society budget, implement campaigns, advocate on behalf of students, maintain the Students' Society's services, and develop the membership. It is not a 'student government'; the BoD has no legislative power over its electorate in a manner similar to that of Parliament.

Each member of the Board has a duty with other Board members to further the interests of the Society, and is responsible and answerable to the membership.

CONSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF DIRECTORS

The four Executive Director positions are :

Chairperson
Director of Academics
Director of Finance
Director of Services

The Chairperson, constitutionally, is the spokesperson of the Society, liaising with the university administration, different levels of government, and the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) national and provincial offices. The Chairperson regularly chairs the BoD meetings, which must occur at least twice per month. They are responsible for preparing policy of the Society, and assisting in all Society publications. As well, the Chairperson sits on the executive committee of the Graduating Class.

The Director of Academics is the chair of the Course Union Council, and the liaison with the Ombudsperson's office, student members on Senate, and the Board of Governors. They are also responsible for the communication and advertising for the Society, and for initiating and coordinating the speakers programs and any other programs of an academic nature.

The Director of Finance is responsible for all financial records, policies, contracts and statements of the Society and the preparation of the Society's annual budget. In addition, the Director of Finance acts as a liaison between the unionized and non-unionized staff and the BoD through the Personnel Committee.

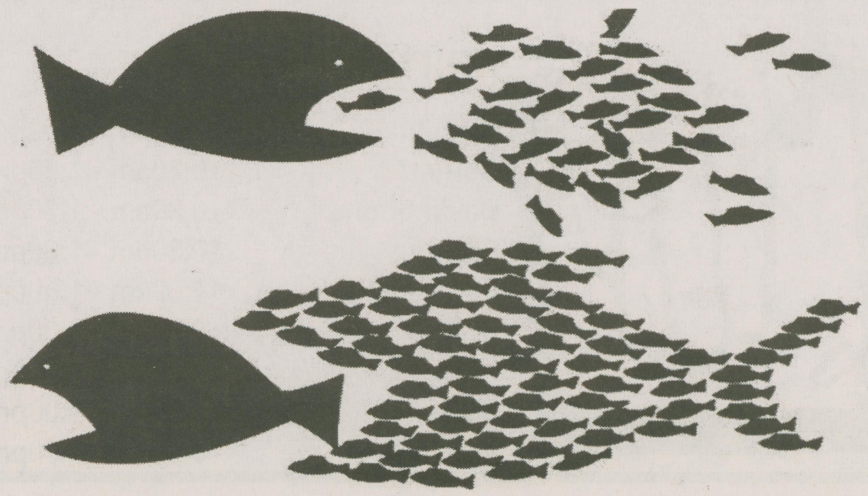
The Director of Services is the chair of the Clubs Council, and the chief liaison between the staff and members of the Society (through the General Manager). They are responsible for initiating and coordinating orientation, exchange and charity programs, and for all other non-academic programs. In addition, the Director of Services acts as a liaison between the unionized and non-unionized staff and the BoD through the Personnel Committee.

At-Large Directors and Constituency Organisation Representatives are responsible for assisting the Executive Directors in carrying out their duties and also scrutinizing Executive Director activities. They assist in coordinating and implementing all levels of campaigns concerning education defense and must participate on at least two committees of the Students' Society. The Constituency Organisation Representatives are also responsible for liaising with their respective constituency organisations.

All the directors together shape policy, run campaigns, prepare the budget, resolve administrative decisions, and generally deal with the business of the Society. The offices of the Executive Directors are found in the Resource Centre (B103), which also houses research material about student and social issues, gathered over the years by involved students and the Canadian Federation of Students.

Students pay a fee each semester to the UVSS, and to the CFS. Both fees are referendum based - that is, students have chosen, by majority, to levy themselves a fee for the operation of the UVSS and the services it provides. The UVSS holds two General meetings per year (October and February), when each registered student has speaking rights and a vote so that they may have direct input into the direction of the organisation, and the policies and budget priorities for the year.

Most of the business of the BoD is actually conducted through committees. The newly elected BoD begins its term on May 1st. At that time, the committees are struck for the year. Some committees are standing committees of the Students' Society as per the UVSS Constitution and Bylaws and must be activated each year. Other committees are standing committees of the Board and, although often no less important, can be struck or not at the discretion of the existing Board.



•ELECTION PLATFORMS• EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

CHAIRPERSON

AMBER DUJAY
Students for Students
amber.votestudentsforstudents.ca

The UVSS is responsible for overseeing a multi-million dollar budget and makes decisions that affect every student on campus. I am running for Chairperson because I believe that student governance must be brought back to the students. Political agendas need to be left behind so that all students can be properly represented and access UVSS services.

As your Chairperson, I will:

- Lobby for increased bursaries, student awards and financial aid.
- Increase the efficiency and quality of clubs and course unions through opportunities to work together and reduce barriers to holding events.
- Improve transparency and integrity of the Board of Directors by making minutes and budgets available online.
- Advocate for improved on and off campus housing options.
- Host more events that benefit all students at UVic throughout the entire year, including a Frosh Week in September and a year-end concert in March.
- Work towards regaining student's faith in the UVSS through good governance and student engagement.

As a fourth year Political Science major, some of my previous experiences include:

- President of the Political Science Course Union (UPS).
- Western Rep for the Canadian Political Science Students Association
- Coordinator of the UVic World University Services Canada, which operates the student refugee sponsorship program.
- Member of UNICEF, Improv club, intramural sports teams, and a variety of other clubs.
- Equity Researcher at the UVic Equity and Human Rights Office, in charge of planning the December 6th Memorial for Violence Against Women
- Sat on Public Relations board, Political Science Undergrad Association, Amnesty International and Community Outreach committee at the University of Alberta

It's time for the UVSS to focus on tangible, on campus goals that benefit students now. On March 5th, 6th, and 7th, vote **Amber Dujay & Students for Students!**

Please vote March 5, 6, & 7

CHAIRPERSON

CAITLIN MEGGS
Team *FAST*

I am excited to be running for Chairperson with Team ***For A Sustainable Tomorrow***. As an Environmental Studies and Political Science student, I feel passionately about the role our student society can play in our campus community and for social change.

Sustainability:

- ✔ Fight for transit improvements with the WE RIDE: Student Action for Public Transit campaign including late night buses and more express routes
- ✔ Implement a SUB sustainability audit and climate-neutral plan of action
- ✔ Lobby for UVic to convert the land reserve into sustainable agriculture for campus and the community

Affordable Education:

- ✔ Work to reduce co-op fees
- ✔ Encourage UVic to place all textbooks and course packs in the library
- ✔ Work for better financial aid, including grants, bursaries, more work studies and support the ongoing tuition freeze

Campus Community:

- ✔ Support the work of Clubs and Course Unions by improving free services and supporting special projects
- ✔ Support Advocacy projects and work on events that promote social justice
- ✔ Organize social events and thought-provoking speakers to create a more exciting social atmosphere

I will bring passion and experience to the position of Chairperson.

As your Director of Academics this past year, I gained valuable experience organizing campaigns, improving services and holding events:

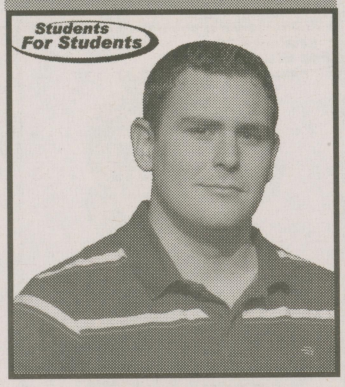
- ✔ Improved campus sustainability by ensuring that local food is served in the SUB
- ✔ Hosted high-profile environmental speakers such as David Suzuki
- ✔ Campaigned for transit improvements such as late-night buses and more frequent service, getting over 4000 petition signatures and the City of Victoria's endorsement
- ✔ Volunteer Coordinator for Canadian Blood Services campus clinics
- ✔ Volunteer for Common Energy organizing campus sustainability initiatives
- ✔ Coordinating committee member of VIPIRG

I look forward to working for YOU and all students at UVic ***For A Sustainable Tomorrow***.

Elect Caitlin **MEGGS**
CHAIRPERSON
Team *FAST*

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!

FINANCE



KYLE GRANGER
Students for Students
kyle.votestudentsforstudents.ca

The UVSS is a multi-million dollar organization, which requires great responsibility and business experience. The UVSS handles your fees to create events, run businesses and provide services to students every day. The SUB properly managed will prosper and grow into a place where all students can hang out and relax after a hard day of studying, while ensuring that we have access to a full range of services that will help supplement our educational experience.

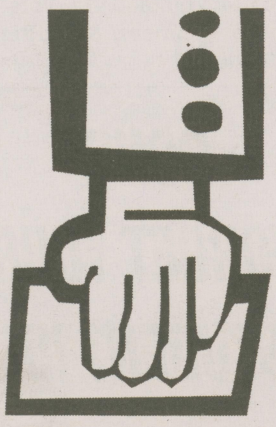
As your Director of Finance, I will:

- Strengthen Clubs and Course Unions by increasing their funding so that they may provide **more special events** and become a greater part of the university community.
- Ensure businesses in the SUB are always operating on **Sustainable and Prosperous** business practices.
- Ensure that there is funding for **many new UVSS events** and bring back old ones, such as the SUB parties.
- Focus on **"on campus"** lobbying to secure greater Student Aid packages, and **more** scholarships, while working with the University administration to obtain **a higher UPass discount**.
- Improve **transparency and accountability** by ensuring all finance meetings are recorded into minutes, and that they are at a time when as many students that are interested are able to attend.

As a 3rd year Political Science major and Computer Science minor, some of my past experiences include:

- Finance committee member of the UVSS.
- Active Member at Large of the Political Science Course Union (UPS).
- Assistant Manager to a small business for two years now known as Water to Go Canada. Where I managed the weekly and daily budgets, ensuring that the store was both competitive and sustainable.

Vote for **service, accountability and sustainability**. Vote for **your campus**. Vote for **Kyle Granger & Students for Students.**



FINANCE

TRACY HO
Team *FAST*

I am privileged to be running as your Director of Finance with Team ***For A Sustainable Tomorrow.***

As Chairperson this past year, I have worked to ensure that more services and events were organized on campus while also ensuring that there was another surplus to improve the fiscal health of the Students' Society.

Sustainability:

- ✔ Work with UVic towards the elimination of disposables on campus
- ✔ Build on the momentum of the **WE RIDE: Student Action for Public Transit campaign**

Affordable Education:

- ✔ Improving the Health and Dental Plan and make opt-outs easier and more flexible
- ✔ Ensure that your Students' Society finances are easy to access and understand
- ✔ Advocate and lobby to reduce upfront costs and barriers to education
- ✔ Continue to work towards bringing down the costs of textbooks and course packs

Campus Community:

- ✔ Ensure that Vertigo gets renovated into an inviting and fun space for all students
- ✔ Work with advocacy groups to ensure long-term and sustainable funding that will meet their needs for effective representation
- ✔ Create a more fun and inclusive campus environment

I have demonstrated my dedication to UVic students as your current Chairperson of the UVSS. Throughout the last year, I have:

- ✔ Organized hugely successful events such as UVic Idol 2007 and Anti-Oppression Week 2008
- ✔ Lobbied for increased funding for better public transit services
- ✔ Pushed forward the renovations of Vertigo to be completed by September 2008
- ✔ Built relationships with on campus groups such as VIKES Athletics and Residence Life
- ✔ Elected as BC Women's Liaison for the Canadian Federation of Students

My studies in commerce combined with my experience as a students' representative, give me the knowledge and passion to be a diligent and resourceful Director of Finance.

Elect Tracy **HO**
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE
Team *FAST*

✔VOTE

ACADEMICS

RANDY NEVILLE
Students for Students
randy.votestudentsforstudents.ca

As the Director of Academics, I will bring together and support the groups that have greatest impacts on students' lives: athletic teams, advocacy groups, professional development unions, clubs and course unions. They are the grassroots of the campus community and provide nearly all of the academic and social events for students, yet they are under-represented in the UVSS.

As a 4th year History major and Chemistry minor, I've thrown myself into creating a better campus community for all students. Some of my UVic experiences include:

- 2-term president of the History Course Union (THUGS)
- 2-years Vikes Men's Rugby Manager
- UVSS Special Events Committee
- 'Experience UVic' Humanities Representative
- Student Representative on the History Department Chair Search Committee
- Created Publication Fund and Academic Fund policy
- Wrote the 'How To' guidebook for Course Unions.

By being active in athletics, clubs and course unions, I believe am in a unique position to bring student groups into the future of the UVSS.

As your **Director of Academics,** I will:

Integrate campus groups into the UVSS:

- Foster communication and organization among campus groups and the UVSS by establishing a discussion forum and providing advertisement and web support.
- Incorporate greater diversity into UVSS events and create fund-raising opportunities for different groups.

Bring greater accountability to UVSS decisions:

- Reform the board to give every faculty a seat!
- Establish and enforce regularly scheduled office and committee times.

Make the UVic experience better:

- Pursue 24-hour study space on campus
- Bringing back SUB parties!

In the past, the Director of Academics has had little experience with course unions. A vote for me is a vote for course union, clubs and athletics experience.

On March 5th, 6th, and 7th, vote **Randy Neville & Students for Students!**

•ELECTION PLATFORMS• EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

ACADEMICS

EDWARD PULLMAN
Team *FAST*

The UVSS has the potential to be a powerful voice for student interests both on and off campus. I am proud to be running again with Team ***For A Sustainable Tomorrow*** to create a more sustainable campus, reduce barriers to post-secondary education, and enrich our academic experiences.

Sustainability:

- ✔ Work to improve bicycle infrastructure
- ✔ Fight for **improved public transit services** including more early and late service
- ✔ Work on bottled water and disposable container waste reduction

Affordable Education:

- ✔ Increase academic research and scholarship opportunities for students
- ✔ Facilitate cooperation on Senate and Board of Governors to ensure effective student advocacy
- ✔ Improve UVSS communication with students in all departments, in particular professional degrees including law, engineering, social work, commerce, and education

Campus Community:

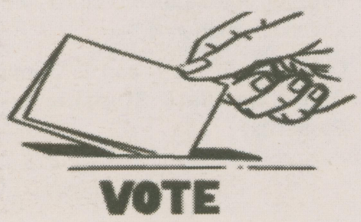
- ✔ Offer monthly speakers and film showings on controversial and topical issues such as the conflict in Darfur, climate change, Aboriginal rights, and racism
- ✔ Work to improve library services including better hours during exams, textbooks on reserve in the reading room, and availability of library books on emerging academic research
- ✔ Bring Victoria social justice and community groups onto campus to increase UVic students' role in the local community

As a Director at Large this past year, I have:

- ✔ Organized a speaker series to discuss improving Victoria's transit system
- ✔ Helped collect 4,000 signatures on the We Ride petition for better public transit
- ✔ Volunteered as the transportation working group coordinator for Common Energy
- ✔ Representative on the UVic Bicycle Users Committee

My undergraduate experience at UVic has been sublime. My time here has made me passionate about the issues that affect students. I intend to put my passion and experience to good use as your Director of Academics.

Elect Edward **PULLMAN**
DIRECTOR OF ACADEMICS
Team *FAST*



SERVICES

CHRISTINE COMRIE
Team *FAST*

I am proud to be running for Director of Services with Team ***For A Sustainable Tomorrow***. As a Director at Large I took on the responsibilities of the Director of Services at the beginning of September and wish to continue building on the work I have done. This position has been exciting and challenging for me, and I hope to be re-elected so that I can ensure that our events and services reflect the growth we are currently experiencing here at UVic.

Sustainability:

- ✔ Work towards sustainable SUB operations
- ✔ More events that focus on sustainable living, such as the Small Footprint Winter Market that I organized in November

Affordable Education:

- ✔ Increase study space and social space on campus
- ✔ Introduce more affordable and healthy food in the SUB
- ✔ Advocate for a continued tuition fee reduction and improved student grants

Campus Community will be my main priority:

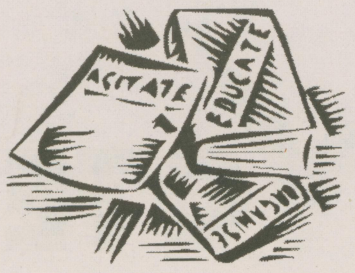
- ✔ Revival of SUB parties bringing big name bands and talented DJs
- ✔ Create successful all ages events such as Cornival, Sleeping Bag Drive-In and free coffee houses
- ✔ Make the SUB a showcase for students and local Victoria talent including DJs, bands, and art shows
- ✔ Revise clubs policy to reflect the growth in clubs and the diversity of their needs
- ✔ Build community spirit within the social and athletic groups on campus
- ✔ Support international students' transition into the UVic community

I bring innovation, organization and experience to my work as your representative:

- ✔ Acting Director of Services since September
- ✔ Volunteer on Board of Directors at CFUV Radio, and host radio shows
- ✔ Volunteer with Victoria Film Fest

If elected, I promise to work hard to produce events and services that the student population deserves and expects from their Society.

Elect Christine **COMRIE**
DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
Team *FAST*



SERVICES

GEORGE ROBINSON
Students for Students
george.votestudentsforstudents.ca

University is more than just academics, it's about the experience. I believe that by building an engaging and active Students' Society we can improve the university experience for everyone. Working with Students for Students, I will work to make sure that the issues that affect you most are dealt with by setting achievable goals.

As your **Director of Services**, I will:

- Strengthen Clubs and Course Unions by providing them with more funding, resources for special projects, and office space in the SUB.
- Re-negotiate our Health and Dental plans to ensure UVic gets the best coverage for the best price.
- Produce annual semester events, including a Frosh Week program in September, **bring back the SUB Parties**, and a year-end concert/musical festival in the spring, similar to Arts County Fair at UBC.
- Focus on tangible on-campus advocacy goals, including reducing co-op fees, more student housing and better quality of education.
- Improve transparency and accountability by taking minutes for all committee meetings and introducing structural reforms to ensure every faculty gets a vote on the board.

As a fourth year Fine Arts and Political Science student, some of my past experiences include:

- Three terms as a UVSS Student Senator, working on Agenda and Procedures, University Budget, and Academic Appeals committees.
- Two years work experience at New Student Orientation planning events for new and returning students.
- Vice President of the Theatre Course Union.
- Communications Director of the Political Science Course Union (UPS).
- Member of the UVSS Special Events and Student Services Committees.

Vote for a fresh UVSS board and give us the opportunity to do great things for you next year. On March 5th, 6th and 7th, Vote for **George Robinson & Students for Students!**

DON'T FORGET YOUR STUDENT ID!

POLLING STATIONS

WED MARCH 5

Clearihue	9:00am - 8:00pm
Commons	5:00pm - 7:00pm
David Strong	10:30am - 1:30pm
Eng. Lab Wing	10:30am - 1:30pm
Fine Arts	10:30am - 1:30pm
Library	9:00am - 8:00pm
MacLaurin	9:00am - 4:00pm
McKinnon	9:00am - 12:00pm
SUB	9:00am - 4:00pm
University Centre	10:30am - 1:30pm

THURS MARCH 6

Clearihue	9:00am - 8:00pm
Commons	5:00pm - 7:00pm
Cornett	1:00pm - 3:00pm
Elliott	10:30am - 1:30pm
Fraser	10:00am - 1:30pm
Library	9:00am - 8:00pm
MacLaurin	9:00am - 4:00pm
SUB	9:00am - 4:00pm
University Centre	10:30am - 1:30pm
ECS	9:00am - 4:00pm

FRI MARCH 7

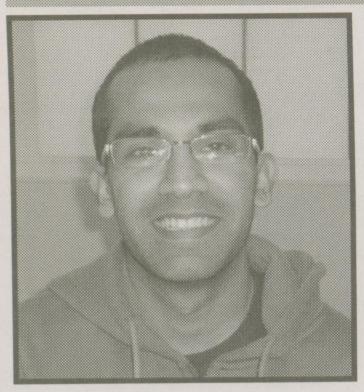
Clearihue	9:00am - 4:00pm
Cornett	10:30am - 1:30pm
David Strong	10:30am - 1:30pm
Elliott	10:30am - 1:30pm
Eng. Lab Wing	10:00am - 12:00pm
Human & Social Dev	10:30am - 1:30pm
Library	9:00am - 4:00pm
SUB	9:00am - 4:00pm
ECS	9:00am - 4:00pm

"IF DEMOCRACY IS THE FLOWER... THEN APATHY IS THE WEED."

VOTE

MARCH 5TH TO THE 7TH

•ELECTION PLATFORMS• DIRECTORS AT LARGE



VISHAL AHUJA
Team *FAST*

I am running for Director at Large and looking forward to serving you by utilising my student activist experience to make the UVSS a better organization that works ***For A Sustainable Tomorrow***.

What I will do if I get elected?

Sustainability:

✔ I will make UVic policies more environmental and sustainable for the SUB and campus

✔ Continue to lobby for better transit services

Affordable Education:

✔ Advocate for more services for International Students

Campus Community:

✔ Advocate for more International Student representation on the UVSS board

✔ Organize multi-cultural events on campus to encourage more diversity awareness

Vote Vishal Ahuja for:

✔ Experience: Current Finance Executive, former External Executive and former International Student Director of Camosun College Student Society (CCSS)

✔ Effective: Successfully campaigned to allow International Students to work off campus

✔ Innovative: Designed new policies to make CCSS an accountable organization

✔ Participated in Victoria campaigns: February 7th Day of Action and the current WE RIDE: Student Action for Public Transit campaign

✔ Successfully campaigned in referendum to build a SUB building at Camosun College

Do the right thing! Vote for passion, experience and vision – you will not be disappointed!

Elect Vishal **AHUJA**

Team *FAST*

Vote March 5,6 &7

ANDREW ALLEN
Students for Students

votestudentsforstudents.com

The UVic academic experience is excellent, but I believe that the right leadership in the UVSS can help deliver a more complete campus experience. By changing our focus back to the campus, I know a Students for Students led board can make this a reality.

As a Director-at-Large, I will:

- Increase the resources of active Clubs and Course Unions so that they may thrive.
- Host more Special Events on campus including the return of SUB Parties.
- Lobby for more scholarships, bursaries and financial aid.
- Strive to improve communication between the UVSS and students.
- Have the UVSS Health and Dental Plans renegotiated to give students the best value and coverage possible.
- Ensure the UVSS continues and improves its record for sustainable practices.

As a 4th year Physical Education major I am involved at UVic in these capacities:

- UVSS Special Events, Finance, Organizational Development & Vertigo Renovations committees.
- New Student Orientation Tour Guide.
- President of the Capture the Flag Club.
- Active on numerous Intramural teams.

Say "no" to the status quo! On March 5th, 6th, and 7th vote **Andrew Allen and Students for Students** for a better campus!

CHRIS ANCTIL
Team *FAST*

I have spent 2 years as a student at UVic and have felt the warmth and cold of the academic institution and the community of impassioned students. Coming together and sustaining a community of motivated and caring people can only make it better.

I am working with Team ***For A Sustainable Tomorrow*** to help continue to create a sustainable institution and to help create a sustainable community. As a Director at Large, I am committed to:

Sustainability:

✔ Increase UVic sustainability such as increasing accessibility to water fountains and waste reduction

✔ Transportation alternatives such as **improved bus services** through the WE RIDE: Student Action for Public Transit campaign and bike amenities on campus

Affordable Education:

✔ Lobby for more committed student study spaces

✔ Advocate for the reduction of academic and ancillary fees

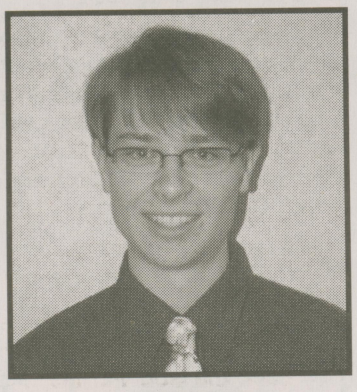
Campus Community:

✔ Incorporate more cultural events and sharing of ideas between International and Local Students

✔ Improve communication to increase awareness of the UVSS on campus

I am both a UVic student and a Reservist. Now I wish to be your representative – all require dedication and commitment. I am pleased to rise to the challenge.

Elect Chris **ANCTIL**
Team *FAST*



STEPHEN BECKMYER

Are you tired of the ideological hegemony of student electoral politics? Do you want a Board of Directors that respects your viewpoints, whatever they may be? Do you resent that the UVSS BoD has made arbitrary policy decisions supposedly on behalf of students? It is time for change, for a strong independent conservative voice on the BoD.

The BoD has not served students well in the past. I shall listen to the needs of my fellow students and work with my colleagues to ensure a scandal-free and effective board for all.

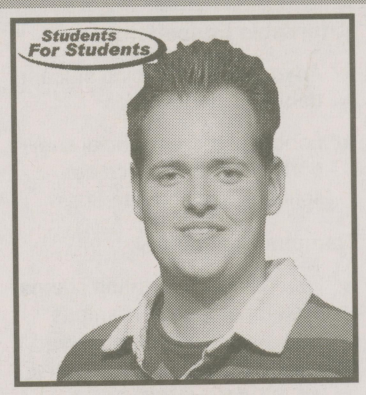
Rather than lobby for eliminating tuition fees, I shall work for fiscal responsibility with what the BoD has control over—the $66.34 levied per semester from each student for the operation of the UVSS.

I believe the BoD should not legislate official positions on behalf of students, as when they voted to bar the military from the Career Fair; it should instead respect the plurality of viewpoints that the university represents.

I am a second year studying political science, though I did my first year in music. I will bring a fresh voice and a strong work-ethic to my service on behalf of students.

Desire! Inspire!
Beckmyer!

BRING YOUR STUDENT ID



MIKE BOULTBEE
Students for Students

votestudentsforstudents.ca

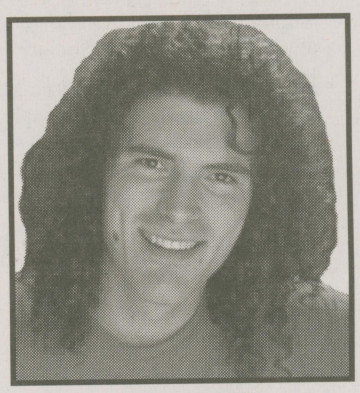
We are fortunate to attend such a great university, but there is room for improvements where campus life and community are concerned. Past boards have invested abundant resources towards social change; however, our UVSS fees would be better spent on ensuring students have the best campus experience possible. I am running to give students a UVSS that works for them.

If elected director-at-large, I will:

- Lobby the university for increased student bursaries and financial aid as a feasible means of alleviating student debt.
- Host a variety of fun events, such as a Week of Welcome and a SUB Party, throughout the year.
- Reform the UVSS Constitution to make governance more efficient, accountable and inclusive.
- Integrate ResLife into UVSS events to create a greater sense of campus community.
- Renegotiate for a better UVSS Health and Dental Plan.

As a third-year political science student, I have served the UVic community in the Undergraduate Politics Society, as well as various UVic clubs.

I'm running with the Students for Students slate, which is focused on tangible, measurable goals to improve our campus. On March 5th, 6th, and 7th, vote **Mike Boultbee & Students for Students!**



DYLAN HARDIE

You might recognize me from class, you might recognize me from Felicitas, you might recognize me from walking around campus. I have been a student at Uvic for 3 years and am not happy with the way our elected Student Society (UVSS) has been working. I think the UVSS can do better than to make empty gestures such as banning the Military by instead listening to the student body as a whole. Our student society can have an impact on major issues on and beyond our campus, as long as competent and organized individuals are elected to the board. My personal goals are:

- I want more events to happen on campus.
- I want Vertigo to host big shows on a regular basis.
- I want the UVSS to make decisions that represent the student body as a whole, not just a segment thereof.
- I want to be a voice of reason at UVSS Board meetings and to effect change in the way things are run.
- I want to facilitate events to make our campus a better, more fun place to be.

If you agree, I ask for your vote

VERONICA HARRISON
Team *FAST*

As a 2nd year Political Science and Psychology student, I have volunteered for UVic and the UVSS my entire time here. I currently work with several course unions and advocacy groups creating campus community. I am excited to be running again ***For A Sustainable Tomorrow***.

My priorities as Director-At-Large would be:

Sustainability:

✔ Increasing composting in and around the SUB

✔ Continue campaigning for **more reliable and accessible transit service** with the WE RIDE Transit campaign

Affordable Education:

✔ Lobby for reduced textbook and coursepack costs

Campus Community:

✔ Continue organizing all ages events

✔ Ensure that Vertigo Renovations proceed to create an inviting space that all students can utilize and for larger events

✔ Create increased services for Clubs and Course Unions

✔ Encourage student input and board accountability

As a current Director-At-Large I have:

✔ Lobbied for the UVic switch to 100% post consumer paper

✔ Petitioned for better transit in Victoria

✔ Campaigned for affordable education for all students

✔ Organised larger, all ages events on campus

I am excited to continue working with Team ***FAST*** on issues that matter to you and to create a more fun and inclusive campus community.

Elect Veronica **HARRISON**
Team *FAST*

•ELECTION PLATFORMS• DIRECTORS AT LARGE

MEGAN HENSHAW
Students for Students
votestudentsforstudents.ca

University is not just made up of classes, copious amounts of books, and lengthy essays. It is a unique campus experience that shapes the individual for the rest of their life. As your Director-at-Large I will devote myself to better the services that affect you the most.

As your Director-at-Large, I will:

- Plan fun and interactive on-campus events such as the SUB party, beer gardens, weeks of welcome, and free concerts to unite UVic students.
- Enforce the need for more affordable off-campus housing for UVic students and pressure for more on-campus housing.
- Improve clubs and course unions by providing increased funding, better access to materials and resources, and plan competitive and interactive course union events.
- Focus on increased student funding through bursaries and scholarships that directly help UVic students who need financial aid.
- Make UVic an environmentally-friendly and eco-chic campus by lessening our ecological footprint through direct action and awareness through events like EarthFest.

I am a third-year Women's Studies student, proud feminist and activist on-campus and in the community.

On March 5th, 6th, and 7th, vote to improve your UVic experience. Vote **Megan Henshaw & Students for Students!**

MEAGHAN KERR
Team *FAST*

I am thrilled to be running as Director at Large with Team ***For A Sustainable Tomorrow*** to make your campus more exciting and enjoyable. As a 1st year Writing and Russian studies student, I am impressed by the many opportunities that we have at UVic. As a Director at Large, my priorities would be:

Sustainability:

✔ Reduce disposables on campus and increase the visibility of composting and recycling

✔ Minimize waste created from water bottle consumption by providing access to fresh, clean drinking water

Affordable Education:

✔ Advocate for reducing student debt and student fees

✔ Lobby for more financial support for students such as scholarships and bursaries

Campus Community:

✔ Increase transportation alternatives for students – campus bike amenities and **improved public transit service** with the WE RIDE Transit Campaign

✔ Secure a permanent home for the community gardens

I am an active participant in the community:

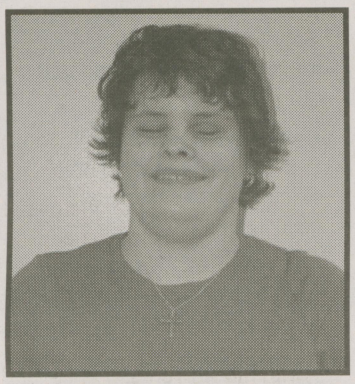
✔ Assistant English teacher at the Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Society

✔ Active in the Wilderness Committee and SPOKES

✔ Participant in Lifecycles' Growing Schools program and Fruit Tree Program

I am dedicated and ready to work with Team ***FAST*** to make the campus experience memorable for you!

Elect Meaghan **KERR**
Team *FAST*



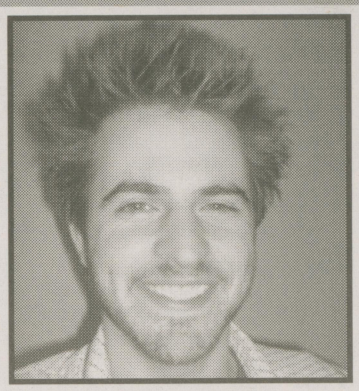
ERIN LACHARITY
Students for Students
votestudentsforstudents.ca

I am a blind student in my fourth year of a degree in Womens Studies. If I am elected to the Board of Directors as a representative at large I will do everything in my power to ensure that the Board truly promotes the interests of all students.

If elected I will:

- Broaden awareness and understanding of all aspects of diversity within the student Society.
- Work with the Board of Directors to increase awareness of the activities and responsibilities of the UVSS.
- Promote a more accessible extracurricular environment that welcomes all students.
- Focus on ways the University can improve students classroom experience.
- Support collaboration between the UVSS Board and all the student Advocacy Groups.
- Work to ensure greater accountability of the UVSS to all students.

I have served on the UVSS for six months as the constituency representative for disabled students. I have learned that the improvements which are necessary to students with disabilities benefit everyone. I will use my experience as a member of Access UVic! to advocate for the needs of all students on campus. On March 5th, 6th, and 7th, vote **ERIN LACHARITY & STUDENTS FOR STUDENTS!**



RYAN LEVIS

Business // Arts is **Ryan Levis'** angle. He will endeavor to provide professional off-campus opportunities for U. Vic's "mixed-bag" artists and business people. U.Vic lacks an ambitious student producer and with the help of the Big Ideas Club, **Levis** hopes to produce emerging musicians, art against war, racy advertisements, and performing arts festivals. Vote for **Ryan Levis** because he wants to contribute to our arts community with a wild business perspective.

Other than that, **Levis** intends to keep the UVSS quite fresh;

"I will persistently rattle the cage which delegates the goings-on of the S.U.B. and aid individual's projects. Get what you want, I will never tell you that there is something you can't do." **-Ryan Levis,** *Artistic Director of Big Ideas Club.*

Vote for eleven Directors At Large: March 5th, 6th and 7th. Choose **Ryan Levis.**

Thank you.

RAY LIU
Team *FAST*

Before coming to UVic, I was the International Student Director at Camosun College Student Society. Besides my main role of promoting cultural awareness on campus, I was passionately involved with working on campaigns fighting for students' rights and organizing special events on campus. Being part of the student society has been a life-changing experience.

As a UVic student, I would like to continue working for students as a member of Team ***For A Sustainable Tomorrow.*** As Director at Large, I will work on:

Sustainability:

✔ Lobby for **improved transit service** with the WE RIDE: Student Action for Public Transit campaign

✔ Create an orientation on campus sustainability for International Students

Affordable Education:

✔ Support students' right to education by continuing campaigns such as reducing student debt and better grants for students

✔ Lobby for cheaper textbook and coursepack costs

Campus Community:

✔ Represent UVic International Students and ensure voices of the minority is heard

✔ Organize enjoyable and educational events to promote cultural diversity

✔ Encourage inclusion within the student body and open-mindedness towards all kinds of diversities

I look forward to working with Team ***FAST*** to make a difference for all students at UVic.

Elect Ray **LIU**
Team *FAST*

RAYYANN MAHERALI
Team *FAST*

As a 1st year Political Science student living in residence, I am excited about the opportunities that the UVSS provides. I am eager to get more involved with Students' Society events in order to provide a 1st year students' perspective while helping to create better services with Team ***For A Sustainable Tomorrow***

As Director at Large, it would be my privilege to work with Team FAST on:

Sustainability:

✔ Ensure an exciting and sustainable SUB environment that students will want to spend time in

✔ Continue lobbying for better **late night transit service** with the WE RIDE Transit campaign

Affordable Education:

✔ Create more services for the needs of International Students

✔ Lobby for reduced costs of textbooks and coursepacks

Campus Community:

✔ Build strong community ties by working with the diverse student groups on campus

✔ Organize more inclusive events year round on campus

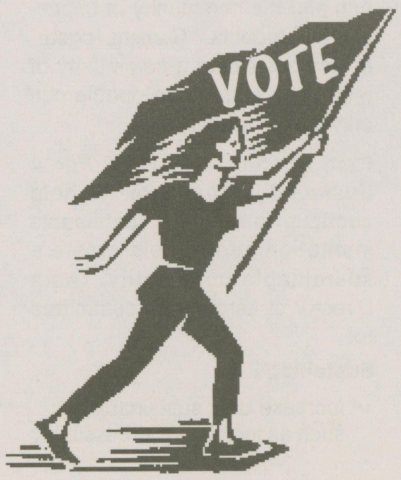
✔ As an active member of the community, I am involved in:

✔ The Ismaili Student Association – Treasurer and First Year Representative

✔ UVSS Special Events Committee – All ages inclusive events in 2007/2008

I am enthusiastic, energetic and excited to bring a fresh and committed voice to your students' society.

Elect Rayyann **MAHERALI**
Team *FAST*



CARLY MALLOCH
Students for Students
votestudentsforstudents.ca

We often get so caught up in the academics of university life that we forget about the rest of the educational experience. As a Director-at-Large I will work hard to improve these many facets of university life and make being a UVic student rewarding and fulfilling.

As a Director-at-Large I will:

- Support Course Unions and encourage inter-departmental events to promote department solidarity and cooperation.
- Pressure the administration to increase funding and scholarships available to students to lessen the stress of pursuing post-secondary education.
- Work to increase the sustainability of our campus and work towards attainable environmental goals.
- Plan various fun events to improve our on-campus community.

As a third year History in Art and Greek and Roman Studies Major, some of my previous experiences include:

- Treasurer of the GRS Course Union.
- Director of Records for the Yukon College Student Union.
- Director-at-Large of the Yukon College Students Union.

On March 5th, 6th, and 7th, vote for a better students society focused on tangible and measurable goals to improve our campus. Vote **Carly Malloch & Students for Students!**

RORY MARTIN-COURTRIGHT
Students for Students
votestudentsforstudents.ca

Students for Students is a group of concerned and experienced students. We believe the UVSS must be held to a higher degree of accountability and must be reformed. More information must be made available to students so more students can get involved. We believe that course unions, clubs, and advocacy groups need to have a greater role within the UVSS.

If elected I will:

- Host more special events and social activities for all-ages.
- Re-introduce a safe, secure, well organized SUB Party.
- Improve space allocations within SUB.
- Lobby the UVic administration

•ELECTION PLATFORMS• DIRECTORS AT LARGE

for increased student awards, Financial Aid, and on-campus housing.

- Renegotiate the student health and dental plan to provide increased coverage.
- Advocate for better access to athletic facilities and better public transit.
- Structural and constitutional reforms to ensure that every faculty gets a seat on the board.

We promise to provide effective management, communications, increase school spirit and a great university experience. This election is about voting for the status quo or for necessary change. What form of leadership do you want?

March 5th, 6th, and 7th, vote for a healthier Students Society. Vote **Rory Martin-Courtright & Students for Students!**

HEATHER MCKENZIE
Team *FAST*

As an Environmental Studies and Biology major, I feel a natural pull towards sustainability on campus. I am running with Team ***For A Sustainable Tomorrow*** as a Director at Large because I love being involved and am always looking for opportunities to help promote positive change.

If elected I would work towards a more sustainable campus, greater access to education and increased campus community. I am committed to work on:

Sustainability:

- ✔ Lobby for local food at UVic facilities on campus
- ✔ Lobby for recycling/composting facilities in every building on campus
- ✔ Reduction and ultimate elimination of disposables on campus
- ✔ Lobby for **improved bus services** through the WE RIDE: Student Action for Public Transit campaign

Affordable Education:

- ✔ Lobby for lower student debt and more affordable education
- ✔ Campaign for more affordable housing for students and community members

Campus Community:

- ✔ Ensure there are more exciting fundraisers and events available to 1st year students

I am a lively person and would bring substantial experience to the table as YOUR representative:

- ✔ Actively involved with the on-campus environmental society Common Energy
- ✔ Served on the UVic Sustainability Project Board of Directors for the 2007-08 term

Elect Heather **MCKENZIE**
Team *FAST*

BRODIE METCALFE
Team *FAST*

This is my 1st year at UVic and I am thrilled by the diversity of students and many opportunities to be involved in campus life. I am proud to be a member of Team ***For A Sustainable Tomorrow.*** I will work towards an inclusive and equitable campus community.

As a dedicated Director at Large, my priorities are:

Sustainability:

- ✔ Promote SUB sustainability through reduction of waste and disposables
- ✔ Education campaign on sustainability
- ✔ Minimize disposable water bottle waste by providing improved access to fresh, clean, delicious, drinking water

Access to Education:

- ✔ Organise for better bus service as part of the WE RIDE Transit campaign
- ✔ Advocate for improvements to science labs and classrooms

Campus Community:

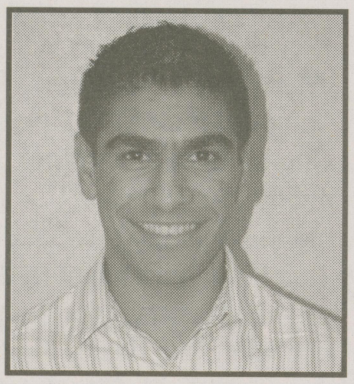
- ✔ Ensure that UVSS events are inclusive to gender, race, and ability
- ✔ Encourage more collective effort between advocacy groups and the Board
- ✔ Boosting involvement in advocacy groups

Experience in building campus community:

- ✔ Founder of Oxfam – UVic chapter
- ✔ Executive of UVic Pride Advocacy group
- ✔ UVic Pride Representative on the UVSS Board

I am confident that I will provide a strong voice for the diversity of UVic students.

Elect Brodie **METCALFE**
Team *FAST*



AHMED MUMENI

As a 4th year BSc. Geography student, I am committed to:

- Organizing more social events for students such as all-ages dances, concerts in the Student Union Building, and beer gardens during September orientation week
- Putting the power back into the hands of students by informing the student body of important decisions that need to be made
- Making student politics a more interactive and transparent process by engaging students through the use of campus media
- Ensuring that the UVSS is accountable for its decisions by voicing in opinions that represent students' desires
- Adding a multicultural perspective to more accurately represent the student body

GEORDON OMAND
Team *FAST*

As a 2nd year Political Science/Biology student, I have the experience and confidence necessary to make a meaningful contribution to our community while working ***For A Sustainable Tomorrow***.

My experience and dedication will help me build better relationships with government and university administration to achieve these goals. I, Geordan Omand as Director at Large, will work on:

Sustainability:

- ✔ Effectively lobby for **improved public transit** with the WE RIDE: Student Action for Public Transit campaign, especially late night buses
- ✔ Promote SUB operation sustainability, encouraging use of locally grown foods

Affordable Education:

- ✔ Advocate for reduced student debt through grants and bursaries
- ✔ Lobby for decreased coursepack costs and ancillary student fees

Campus Community:

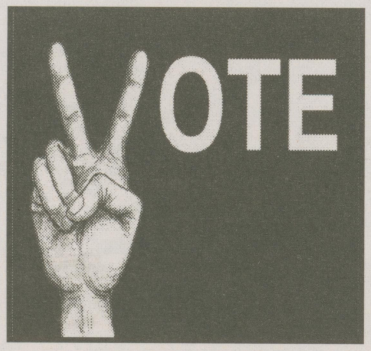
- ✔ Strive to build community and energize students by organizing more events for all UVic students

I have demonstrated my commitment to the university community in numerous ways:

- ✔ Contributed to the enrichment of residence life through my role as Resident Advisor
- ✔ Participated in UVSS Political Action Committee lobbying for more affordable and accessible public transportation
- ✔ Coordinated successful fundraising events as co-chair of *R.A.s for Good*

I am enthusiastic about the opportunity to become more involved in campus life.

Elect Geordan **OMAND**
Team *FAST*



RICHARD PARK
Team *FAST*

Students are a force for change and they need a student representative who has experience to make their voices heard. I am excited to be running for re-election with Team ***For A Sustainable Tomorrow***. I am enthusiastic and eager to represent UVic students on issues of sustainability, affordable education and campus life.

Sustainability:

- ✔ Continue working to **increase late night and early morning** transit with the WE RIDE Transit campaign
- ✔ Encourage UVic to review its chemical and water usage to reduce watershed contamination

Affordable Education:

- ✔ Create a student emergency fund for students in need
- ✔ Campaign to reduce student debt by lobbying for increased grants for students in need

Campus Community

- ✔ Work on an orientation week on campus for new students, with many events, parties, and bands
- ✔ Extend hours of late night coffee on campus
- ✔ Work to create more welcoming, inclusive, and racism-free community for all students
- ✔ Offer more programs and events to residence students

I have proven my determination and dedication towards representing students through:

- ✔ 2 years as an elected senate member
- ✔ 2 years UVic planning and priorities committee
- ✔ 1 year UVSS director at large

Re-Elect Richard **PARK**
Team *FAST*

ALL CANDIDATES FORUM

Candidates for the board of directors will be outlining their platforms and answering any questions you might have.

Thursday, Feb 28
4:30 pm
HHB 105

STAFFORD RICHTER
Team *FAST*

As a transfer student who was active in my college students' society, I bring a unique and experienced perspective to the board. I am eager and passionate to work for you as a member of Team *For A Sustainable Tomorrow*.

My priorities as Director at Large are:

Sustainability:

- ✔ Increase the amount and visibility of compost/recycling stations on campus
- ✔ Reduction and ultimate elimination of disposables on campus
- ✔ Lobby UVic to convert CJVI lands to be used to produce local agriculture for on campus facilities
- ✔ Create more on campus bike amenities and continue to support the SPOKES program

Affordable Education:

- ✔ Continue the fight for better public transit services such as early morning and late night buses with the WE RIDE: Student Action for Public Transit campaign
- ✔ Fight rising course pack fees and co-op term fees

Campus Community:

- ✔ Support Clubs and Course Unions with increased resources
- ✔ Ensure that Vertigo gets renovated into a space that will be inviting and utilized by all students
- ✔ Organise an exciting Weeks of Welcome that would include a re-birth of a SUB concert

I would be stoked to be your representative working for you!

Elect Stafford **RICHTER**
Team *FAST*

RACHAEL SEGAL
Students for Students
votestudentsforstudents.ca

While we are already fortunate to attend one of the greatest universities in Canada, we must work towards making it greater. As much as I enjoy waking up early for class and studying late into the night, university needs to offer me more. As a student body we need to start taking steps to create unity among ourselves and create more opportunities outside of the classroom.

•ELECTION PLATFORMS•
DIRECTORS AT LARGE

If elected Director At-Large, I will:

- Create special events that will help unify the student body, like a Frosh Week!
- Work towards having more resources for clubs on campus, including office spaces and more funding.
- Build a club and course union "network" where members can work together and utilize each other's strengths.
- Work to create a sense of UVic campus community.

I'm 3rd year Political Science student and I'm also very involved with various clubs on campus. Last year I served as president of the second largest club on campus, the Jewish Student Association.

On March 5th, 6th and 7th, vote for something new. Vote for unity. Vote for students. Vote **Rachael Segal & Students for Students!**

TERESA SIMS
Students for Students
votestudentsforstudents.ca

The focus of the UVSS cannot only be on long-term solutions to broad ranging social and political issues. There needs to be a focus on tangible, short-term on-campus goals in order to serve the students today.

As a Director-At-Large, I will:

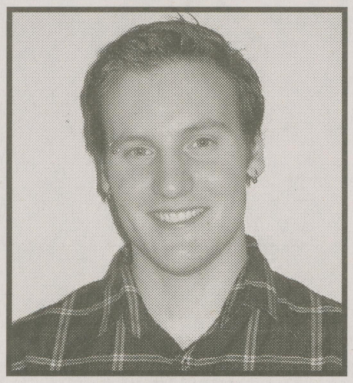
- Develop a campus-wide mentorship program in order to help students develop greater insights and make better career choices
- Ensure operational efficiency and increased reliability of the UVSS by developing greater internal control measures
- Create cohesion between Course Unions and Professional Development Organizations
- Fight for decreased Co-op fees, especially in faculties where co-ops are mandatory

As a third year Commerce student, some of my past experiences include:

- Vice-President and Finance Minister for the Model United Nations Club
- Secretary General of the Victoria Model UN Conference
- Alto singer with the UVic Vocal Jazz Ensemble
- Director-at-Large and Director of Finance for the Undergraduate Politics Society
- VP Finance for the Commerce Students' Society (and Vice President Internal 2008-2009)

Working with Students for Students, I will focus on realistic goals that are reachable. On March 5th, 6th and 7th vote **Teresa Sims & Students for Students!**

DON'T FORGET YOUR STUDENT ID!



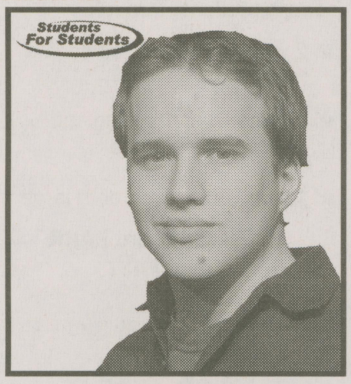
DEVIN STARK
Students for Students
votestudentsforstudents.ca

University life is not solely about academics and a student society should concentrate on fostering life outside of the classroom. This should be done through improvements to the SUB as well as better funding for the Clubs and Course Unions that allow students to be more involved. The current Board's arrogance toward the decision making process has to be rectified so that it stands for the collective student body and not the opinion of the few.

As your Director at Large I will:

- Rejuvenate the SUB through better spaces for Club and Course Union use, a more inviting look and purpose for Vertigo, and provide more events that are better organized.
- Support more funding for clubs and course unions, especially those that are most active.
- Monitor the activity of the Board of Directors to ensure more accountable decision making.

I am a third year Biology student, and my commitment to the development of valuable experiences outside of the classroom can be seen in my past experience as a resident advisor, as well as a contributing member of *RA's for Good*. On March 5th, 6th and 7th, vote **Devin Stark & Students for Students!**



ANDREW WADE
Students for Students
votestudentsforstudents.ca

I would be honoured to stand as one of your Directors At Large for the UVSS. I know our campus, and I want to improve how the UVSS serves our students.
If elected, I will:

- Increase publicity and resources for our clubs and course unions through improved communication and networking with the student body in order to strengthen our campus community.
- Update the UVSS Board structure to more inclusively represent our student body, giving every faculty a voice.
- Consider more effective options for our Health and Dental Plan in order to increase benefits and reduce costs.
- Push for lower secondary fees, including Co-op fees which now peak at over $600 per work term.
- Press for financial responsibility and transparency. It's our money.

I am a fourth-year Writing and Theatre student, and I have taken courses in the faculties of Business, Education, Fine Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences during my time here, as well as being part of the Students For Literacy organizational team.

Vote for a UVSS board that will better serve all students. On March 5th 6th and 7th, **Vote Andrew Wade & Student for Students!**

SEAN WALSH
Students for Students
votestudentsforstudents.ca

A students' experience at university is larger than simply scholarship. Having an engaging and on-campus focused students' society is beneficial for all students. With Students for Students I will work towards this focus as well as a series of other attainable goals aimed to better students' experience

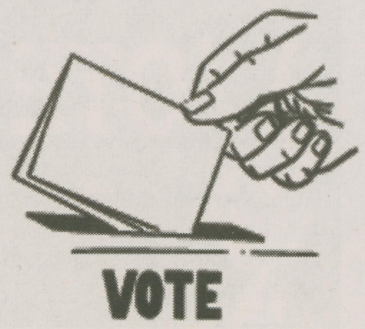
As a **Director At-Large**, I will:

- Bring a campus-focus, this means organizing events that affect students and that students will attend and enjoy.
- Improve services available for students
- Work to create a sense of community on campus that students may relate to.
- Reform the UVSS for more accountability and transparency.
- Create a UVSS students can connect with and may consult about issues that affect them.

As a third year Mechanical Engineering student my past experiences include:

- Current President of the Engineering Students' Society
- Vice-President Academic on the Engineering Students' Society
- Vice-President Finance of the Western Engineering Students' Society Team
- As well as a variety of other society experiences and event organizing experiences

Vote for attainable goals to improve our campus. On March 5th, 6th and 7th, Vote for **Sean Walsh & Students for Students!**



REFERENDUM QUESTION

"Do you support a fee increase, beginning September 2008, of $0.50 from each full time student and $0.25 from each part time student, per semester, to be directed towards an on campus academic fund for the use of Course Unions and administered by Course Union Council?"

YES SIDE

This year, undergraduates students have an opportunity to vote **YES** on a referendum question that will enable Course Unions and Professional Development Unions (PDUs) to host academic events at UVic.

What are Course Unions and PDUs?
Course Unions and PDUs are departmental based groups that represent every student at UVic. They have become the heart of the campus community by providing their students with events that enrich their university experience. They encourage student participation and want to give their students a fun and unique expereince. Many of these groups host events such as movies nights, pub crawls, work shops and career fairs directly focused towards the needs and wants of their students.

How much money do Course Unions currently receive?
Currently Course Unions receive $1.00 per semester from full time students. This is divided by between over 30 Course Unions which works out to be approximately $300 a semester per Course Union. This is the total amount allocated to Course Unions to provide all the services and events you want.

Why do Course Unions want an Academic Fund?
Over the past several years, students from many Course Unions including History, Philosophy, and Politics Sceince have wanted to host conferences and guest speakers at UVic. These events would be academically focused around issues students would like to hear. However, on a $300 budget, hosting an event is often financially improbable.

What is the Academic Fund?
The purpose of this fund is to provide a resource for Course Unions and their students to host academic events. Any Course Union or PDU in good financial standing would have access to the Academic Fund. This fund is administered by Course Union Council; a council that has members from every Course Union and therefore nearly every department at UVic. Each member has an equal vote on which events are worthy of this fund. No member may access this Fund without a thorough financial plan and demonstration of extensive efforts to fund raise. This will be a support fund, not a hand out.

VOTE YES to help Course Unions do more for you!

Randy Neville
President of THUGS
The History UnderGraduate Society

• ELECTION PLATFORMS • SENATE

Senate is one of the two major governing bodies of the University. It is concerned with academic governance matters. It determines enrollment and admissions, approves new programs, grants degrees, makes rules for the management of the Library, recommends awards and scholarships to the Board and so on. It meets on the first Friday of every month from October to May at 3:30 p.m. In addition, it has a number of committees on which all senators serve. Student senators should serve on at least one Senate committee. There are 16 student senators.

Platforms for Students to be elected to the Senate 2008 - 2009

FACULTY OF BUSINESS

TRACY HO

As a student at the University of Victoria, I have witnessed massive changes in policies and development that affect students. We must ensure that the interests and academic priorities of students are at the forefront of UVic planning and governance.

As a dedicated and committed member of Senate, I will work towards enriching the quality of our education by providing a strong student voice advocating for:

- **Student Study Space** as a Priority for building expansion and development
- Reducing upfront costs to education such as **Textbook and Coursepacks** and **Ancillary Fees**
- The reduction of **Co-op** and **Tuition Fees**
- **Environmentally Sustainable** Practices and Policies
- Equitable policies that reflect the needs of the **Diversity of Students** on campus
- Services and representation for **International Students**

My many years of experience with governance includes:

- 1 year as Chairperson of the University of Victoria Students' Society
- 3 years on the Executive of the Students' Union of Vancouver Community College
- 1 year on Senate and 2 years on the Board of Governors at Vancouver Community College

I will be an effective and strong voice for policies that are environmentally sustainable and support students' access to education.

TERESA SIMS

In order to represent any faculty or student body it is crucial that one possesses not only the necessary skills but also motivation to succeed. If elected to the Senate, I would be able to exemplify these qualities.

If elected I will:

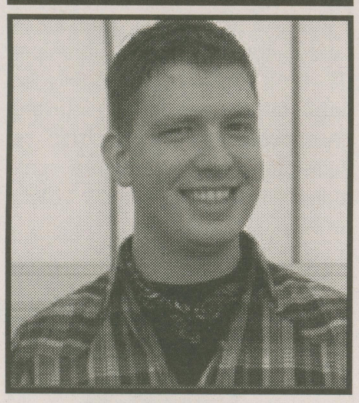
- Work towards increased cohesion between students, faculty members and the University
- aise factual awareness regarding why tuition fees differ from faculty to faculty
- Advocate for more in-house scholarships and bursary opportunities
- Fight for decreased Co-op fees and increased Co-op opportunities that are relevant to each faculty

My experience includes:

- Vice-President and Finance Minister for the Model UN Club
- Secretary General of the Victoria Model UN Conference
- Director-at-Large and Director of Finance for the Undergraduate Politics Society
- VP Finance for the Commerce Students' Society (and VP Internal 2008-2009)
- Alto singer on the Uvic Vocal Jazz Ensemble for the past 2 years

As you can see, my experience exemplifies my dedication and willingness to represent students from many areas of specialization. I can assure you that I am the "perfect fit" for the Senate because I will make sure that students are Uvic's number one priority.

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES



CHRIS ANCTIL

If I must stand on an election platform than let my platform be my own two feet. Let my character speak for myself. My aspirations and values, such as honestly, commitment and caring, are not secret and are open to everyone. Nonetheless, I do hope to affect change so that we can foster a greater sense of community. Bring together those old and new to share is this unique experience of being a student. I also hope to make this a sustainable effort that will not expire when I leave. Being sustainable is required in every way shape and form. To help continue to create not only a sustainable institution but as well as to help continue to create a sustainable community are two initiatives I hope to be a part of. Affecting change from the top is just as important as affecting it from the bottom. Help me be a part of the process.

VOTE!
DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR STUDENT ID!

KUBA KARAS

From increased enrolment to new faculty and facilities, UVic is currently undergoing significant change. I want to make these changes work for students. Strong communication between the administration and the student body is necessary for the mutually-beneficial changes that student's desire. I am fully committed to working closely with the administration to ensure that student interests are heard, and recognize that sustainable growth and the inclusion of all are conducive to a vibrant and successful campus.

If elected, I will:

- Ensure sustainable grown and preserve UVic's natural beauty.
- Push for beneficial class sizes, facilities and undergraduate research opportunities.
- Promote communication between the administration and the student societies.
- Lobby for an expanded Co-op program with significantly reduced fees.
- Reduced tuition.
- Advocate increased scholarship, bursary, and work/study opportunities.
- Help make UVic a "Destination University" and a school that we can be proud of.

With an unparalleled location and a reputation for excellence, UVic is already one of Canada's leading universities. It is my goal to ensure UVic improves on that record, and not lose sight of its top priority, the students. Thank you for your support.

Vote Kuba Karas for Senate!

BRODIE METCALFE

I am a 3rd year student in Gender Studies. Through my studies and involvement with UVic Pride, I have advocated for the inclusion of students, seen as part of a minority, in decision making.

As change and development continues at UVic, I want to ensure consideration of the diversity of students. Not only do I want to ensure quality of education, I also want to be sure the decisions made regarding students are inclusive and equitable.

As Student Senator I will advocate for:

- The consideration of student diversity in decision making.
- Providing students with a voice for issues concerning them.
- Expanding the scope of education within departments.
- Attention directed towards providing more services for students.
- Focus on policy and development through an equity lens.

As Chair of Oxfam UVic and as Pride Representative to the UVSS Board of Directors, I have gained experience working towards giving students a voice on campus:

- Working with the Oxfam Organization – creating the Oxfam UVic chapter.
- Executive on UVic Pride– involved with running workshops, providing information and making decisions regarding the direction of Pride.
- Various UVSS committee membership – Special Events, Student Services and Organisational Development.

RANDY NEVILLE

Hello, my name is Randy Neville and I'm running for senate. I'm currently a 4th student in the departments of History and Chemistry. During my four years on campus I have been extensively involved at all levels of campus life.

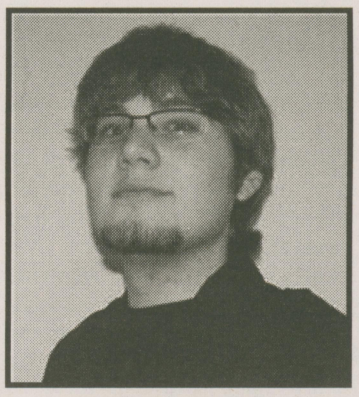
Some of my experiences include:

- Manager UVic Men's Rugby
- President of The History Undergraduate Society
- UVSS Special Events Committee
- 'Experience UVic' Humanities Representative
- The student representative on the History Department Chair Search Committee

If elected to senate, I will:

- Advocate for increased housing options for students on and off campus
- Insist on more funding for students with financial need
- Secure commitments for long term campus green spaces
- Improved accessibility of academic and recreational facilities
- Explore the feasibility of expanded computer lab and library hours
- Bring the administration to see the benefits of course unions and their ability to improve the UVic experience.

In my time at UVic, I have attempted to make the UVic experience both education and fun. The Students for Students slate I am running is focused on improving our UVic experience. On March 5th, 6th, and 7th, vote Randy Neville for student senator.



SAM NUTBROWN

Hello, my name is Sam Nutbrown, and I am running for the first time for a position in the Senate. My back round is in History and English. I bring with me a number of experiences. These include:

- Experience at other academic institutions, I know what worked and what did not at UCFV.
- I am cosmopolitan in outlook, having travelled for 3 months in Europe by myself.
- A comprehension of the needs of both those living on campus and those that do not.
- As a history student, the understanding that history will repeat itself if people remain ignorant to past decisions that did not work.

If elected I intend to:

- Push forward new scholarships and bursaries
- Support new events that are inclusive to all students
- Develop a better sense of student leadership and school pride
- Advocate a course union – faculty relationship that is more fluid and intimate.

What the senate needs is someone who can collaborate with others in order to achieve results that enhance the student experience at Uvic. If you vote for me, you can expect co-operation, leadership and a better sense of community at Uvic.

FACULTY OF SCIENCE

PETER BELL

• ELECTION PLATFORMS • SENATE

REUVEN BRANDT

My name is Reuven Brandt I would like to represent you in the UVIC senate. Over the past five years I have studied both sciences and humanities as well as been involved in clubs, intramurals and UVic orientation. I have participated in a wide range of the academic and non-academic activities offered by UVic and have a good feel for where UVic excels and where improvements can be made. I have gained leadership experience serving on the executive board of clubs at UVic and community organizations. I will use this experience to work within the senate to ensure that the interests of students are well represented.

I believe that efforts to expand research and graduate opportunities at UVic must be balanced with the educational needs of the students. I will work to ensure that UVic maintains a high calibre of instruction by addressing the issue of language barriers in labs and in general instruction. I will also examine the issue of rising textbook prices and the issues surrounding the requirement that students purchase the latest editions. Please allow me to represent you in the senate. I will work hard to ensure that the student voice is heard.

HEATHER MCKENZIE

As an Environmental Studies and Biology major, I feel a natural (ha!) pull towards sustainability on campus. I am a very lively person and love being involved in pressing issues dealt with on campus and in the community, and am always looking for opportunities to help promote positive change. I have been a dedicated volunteer with the on-campus environmental society, Common Energy, since fall 2006, and have been an elected director of the University of Victoria Sustainability Project. These student-run organizations showed me the amazing ideas and driven attitude students experience when involving themselves with issues they're passionate about. As a student representative for the Senate, I am excited to harness this experience and further it by gaining knowledge with experienced members of the University, and will encourage effective development in sustainability and student involvement within the University.

RICHARD PARK

UVic is changing every day and I have had a chance to observe these changes on a regular basis. You need a representative with experience to let your voice be heard.

I have active experience representing students on the UVic Senate (06-08), UVic Student's Society Board of Directors (07-08), UVic Planning & Priorities committee (06-08) and the Senate Committee on Admissions Registrations and Transfers (07-08).

As student enrolment increases along with the cost of tuition, I will work to ensure that **education is accessible** as possible and the **quality of our educational experience** is improved by:

- Increasing financial aid through **bursaries and scholarships.**
- **Lower the price** of course packages & textbooks.
- **Increasing study space and hours.**
- **Make co-ops work for students,** not the bureaucracy.
- Push for **realistic class sizes** that do not put a hinder on our education.
- Work towards **increasing student representation** on campus planning.
- Advocate for **environmentally sustainable planning & construction.**

As your elected candidate, I will continue working to see that students are given priority with the university administration.

Feel free to contact me with questions or ideas you may have: richpark@uvic.ca.

√ Vote for Experience,

√ Re-elect Richard Park

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

CHRISTINE COMRIE

Over the last couple years here at UVic I have been working hard to involve myself in as many ways as possible. I am a 4th year political science student, but have attended other campuses in Calgary and Victoria. I currently sit on the CFUV board of Directors and the UVSS Board of Directors. With this experience I feel I can build on working towards bringing greater attention to the interests and needs of students. I have the drive to continue to make sure that UVic governance goes in the direction that will best serve its students.

As a member of Senate, I plan on continuing to represent the voices of students, by:

- Ensuring the sustainability of the campus remains a priority
- Bringing more services for our growing community of International Students
- Finding new ways to lower the cost of Textbooks and Coursepacks
- Working on the reduction of rising Co-op fees
- Expanding on students services by making them more accessible and diverse

I feel that I am the right choice to ensure that the University experience is something positive for all students; one that everybody can be proud of.

VERONICA HARRISON

I am in second year student studying Political Science and Psychology and currently sit on the University of Victoria Students' Society as a director-at-large. With this experience I have learnt how to create policy, draft motions and motivate for change on a wide range of topics. My time spent on the board of directors and course unions has proven my commitment to student issues.

Specifically I have:

- Worked on reforming and developing student society policy
- Campaigned for more accessible and affordable textbooks
- Participated on student society committees
- Maintained a consistent presence at meetings

This experience will help me to provide a strong voice on the senate to advocate for:

- An increased number of text books on reserve
- Increased texts in electronic and brail format
- Sustainable development on campus
- Expanded co-op programs
- More work study positions
- Improved financial aid to make university more accessible to all students

I will provide a strong student voice in the development of UVic and work to keep student priorities and interests a main focus in university decision making.

Vote Veronica Harrison for Senate.

CARLY LEWIS

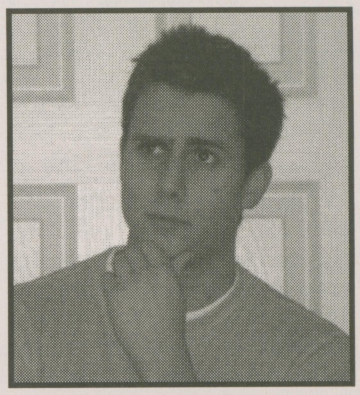
I will work hard so you can play hard.

As a member of the Senate, my goal will be to encourage a pride in the UVic community that mirrors my own. I will do so by maintaining the academic integrity of the university while improving its diversity and innovation.

I truly believe in the value of a higher education for developing an essential academic work ethic and building social confidence. Therefore, I will aim to promote and expand the opportunities for students to enhance both their academic knowledge and community awareness. For example, I believe that more courses should be offered on current events in order to increase the relevance of education to everyday life.

To encourage pride in the UVic community, I will highlight and encourage recent accomplishments of the Student Society. I will support the university's Strategic Plan for increasing student and faculty diversity through innovative recruitment techniques.

I am committed to maintaining the integrity of our university by monitoring academic standards and regulations. In addition, I will encourage student participation and input by acting as an accessible channel for student grievances and initiatives. This will unite students and create a common pride in the University of Victoria.



STEPHEN MCVEAN

Every student reading this has at least one thing in common, we all have to study. So why is it that on campus there's a major lack of unique study areas? My experiences studying on campus are filled with uncomfortable boxy cubicles that are anything but motivating or inspirational. I plan to represent problems students face on a daily basis such as the lack of ingenuity in study space. I believe Uvic needs to look at new ideas to provide students with a cutting edge plan to increase the quality of learning and community on campus. I'm also a major supporter of community involvement and encourage anyone to contact me at srm@uvic.ca. I want to hear your ideas on how Uvic can be improved so I can properly represent as many views as possible on campus. Vote Stephen McVean for Senate

ADAM RUEL

Hi, my name is Adam Ruel and I'm running for the Faculty of Social Sciences student senate seat. I entered UVic as an engineering student but I am currently a 3rd year geography student.

If elected to senate, I will:

- Advocate for accessible housing for students with a disability
- Lobby for an expansion of geography programs
- Pressure the administration for increased financial aid
- Uphold the values of the UVic Strategic Plan

I have:

- Worked overseas on a rural community development program
- Participated in event planning with SOGS (Society Of Geography Students)
- Volunteered for Engineering Student Society fundraisers
- Volunteered with the CNIB (Canadian National Institute for the Blind)

I'm also running with the Students for Students slate, which is focused on tangible, measurable goals to improve our campus. On March 5th, 6th, and 7th, vote Adam Ruel for Student Senator.

Attention All Students

ELECTIONS TO THE SENATE AND TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

mandated under the University Act

Vote online at:

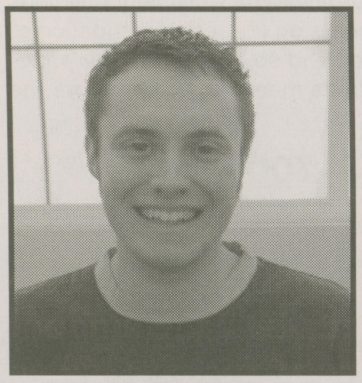
https://webvote.uvic.ca

Student representation on the University's governing bodies is vital, so please exercise your vote.

WebVote will be the sole method for voting in the elections for the Senate and for the Board of Governors; paper ballots will not be available.

WebVote polling starts at 9:00 a.m. PST on March 5th and will close at 4:00 p.m. PST on March 7th, 2008.

• ELECTION PLATFORMS • SENATE



EDWARD PULLMAN

My role as a UVSS director-at-large has informed me as to the need for a strong student voice on Senate. My work on UVIC committees such as the Bicycle Users Committee and Committee on Continuing Studies has shown me that effective communication with the University Administration is essential to addressing student needs and implementing change.

As our campus continues to grow, we need representatives who are aware of the academic and bureaucratic challenges students are facing. I have spoken with many students about their concerns:

- Grading issues
- Course loads and availability
- Class prerequisites
- New degree programs and requirements

I, as a member of the Senate, will be a liaison between students and the administration. I will ensure conflicts and academic issues are addressed. In addition, I will also advocate for:

- Smaller classes
- More space
- Reduced secondary fees (co-op, textbooks and coursepacks)

I will not be afraid to voice concerns on the issues that matter to students. Involvement and inclusion in the Senate is a right which students fought for. I promise to uphold that right by demonstrating dedication and persistence in my term on Senate.

STAFFORD RICHTER

Q: Why should you vote for Stafford Richter to be your Student Representative on the University of Victoria Senate?

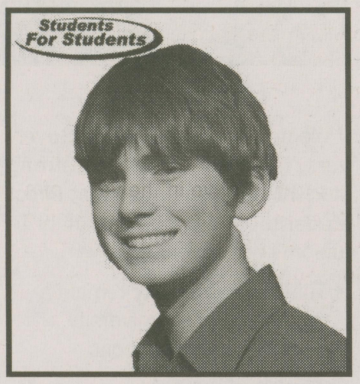
A: A vote for Stafford is a vote for enthusiasm, dedication and staying true to the interests of all students. It is in the best interests of all students to make **education more affordable** and **more accessible**. The two things that prevent educational access and affordability right now at the University of Victoria right now are the outrageous Course Pack and Co-op Fees. If elected I will fight tooth and nail to **cut the costs of Co-op fees** for all students in both the Sciences and Social Sciences.

I will also work to **eliminate course pack fees altogether**. Let's face it course packs are both an antiquated and expensive resource. In order to eliminate course pack fees I will advocate a universal policy of **digitizing all required reading materials** over the Internet.

Lastly I will make a commitment to **reducing excessive ancillary fees for International Students**. If you want action and dedication then I implore you to get out and vote for change.

Education is Not a Privilege – it is a Right that Everyone should have Access To.

Vote Stafford!



CURTIS SMITH

My name is Curtis Smith, I am a third-year Political Science student and I am running with "Students for Students" for the Social Sciences Senator position. I take tremendous pride in the University of Victoria and strive to be an agent for positive change on campus.

If elected I will:

- Be an advocate for course unions in the Senate
- Apply pressure for increased student financial aid in the form of bursaries and scholarships
- Fight to keep University fees affordable for hard-working students
- Push to increase accountability and transparency
- Ensure environmental sustainability is at the forefront of university policy

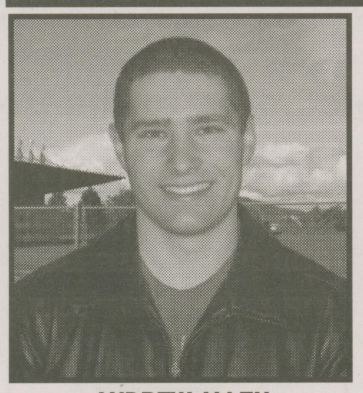
I have demonstrated my leadership abilities and passion for the University of Victoria in my actions on campus and off campus in representing the university by:

- Representing the University of Victoria on the Canadian Political Science Students Association National Executive as the Mountain Representative
- Director of Social Events and Activities on the Undergraduate Politics Society
- Being active on intramural teams

I encourage every student to exercise their democratic right as a student at the University of Victoria and vote Curtis Smith and "Students for Students" for Social Sciences Senator on March 5, 6, 7.

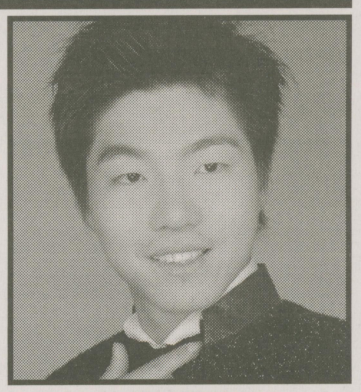
VOTE OUT LOUD

STUDENTS ACCLAIMED TO SENATE

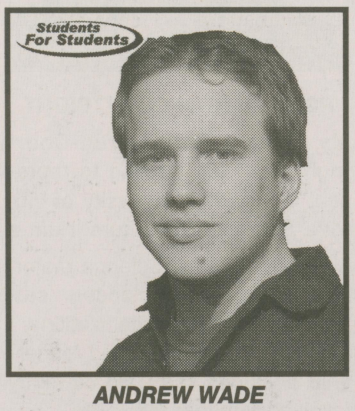


ANDREW ALLEN
Faculty of Education

PHIL ABRAHAM
Faculty of Engineering



JING QIAN
Faculty of Graduate Studies



ANDREW WADE
Faculty of Fine Arts

NO PIC

LYNDSAY WATSON
Faculty of Law.

EXERCISE YOUR DEMOCRATIC RIGHT!

All Candidates Forums

February 28th/2008 at 4:30pm in HHB 105

POLLING STATIONS

WED MARCH 5		THURS MARCH 6		FRI MARCH 7	
Clearihue	9:00am - 8:00pm	Clearihue	9:00am - 8:00pm	Clearihue	9:00am - 4:00pm
Commons	5:00pm - 7:00pm	Commons	5:00pm - 7:00pm	Cornett	10:30am - 1:30pm
David Strong	10:30am - 1:30pm	Cornett	1:00pm -3:00pm	David Strong	10:30am - 1:30pm
Eng. Lab Wing	10:30am - 1:30pm	Elliott	10:30am - 1:30pm	Elliott	10:30am - 1:30pm
Fine Arts	10:30am - 1:30pm	Fraser	10:00am - 1:30pm	Eng. Lab Wing	10:00am - 12:00pm
Library	9:00am - 8:00pm	Library	9:00am - 8:00pm	HSD	10:30am - 1:30pm
MacLaurin	9:00am - 4:00pm	MacLaurin	9:00am - 4:00pm	Library	9:00am - 4:00pm
McKinnon	9:00am - 12:00pm	SUB	9:00am - 4:00pm	SUB	9:00am - 4:00pm
SUB	9:00am - 4:00pm	University Centre	10:30am - 1:30pm	ECS	9:00am - 4:00pm
University Centre	10:30am - 1:30pm	ECS	9:00am - 4:00pm		

PLEASE MARCH 5, 6, 7 VOTE

• ELECTION PLATFORMS •* BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The Board of Governors is one of the two major governing bodies of the University, the other being the Senate. The Board maintains and builds the University buildings and properties, appoints the staff of the University including the President, Vice Presidents and Deans, establishes faculties and departments on the recommendation of Senate, determines all fees including tuition fees, administers the University assets, provides for student loans, approves the University budget, and so on. It meets approximately every 7 weeks from September to June. Board members usually serve on two Board committees as well as the Board. The committees meet one week before the Board meeting.

Platforms for Students to be elected to the Board of Governors 2008-2009

NO PIC

NAOMI DEVINE

The University of Victoria is at the forefront of a lot of scientific research, sustainability initiatives and community-based research. I want to make sure that students are getting the best they can out of these new developments, especially with the exciting announcement of the new Pacific Institute on Climate Solutions, which will be led by UVic. Undergraduate students should benefit from this initiative as they have been at the forefront of climate action planning. Students have come together with the community to create organizations such as Common Energy that focus on solving the climate crisis. As a founding member of Common Energy and a member of the premier's Climate Action Team, I am well versed in this issue and in a position to make sure that undergraduate students not only have access to these initiatives but that they can also actively contribute to them. I will work to ensue that these initiatives are implement a socially responsible, fiscally responsible and inclusive manner.

KUBA KARAS

From increased enrolment to new faculty and facilities, UVic is currently undergoing significant change. I want to make these changes work for students. Strong communication between the administration and the student body is necessary for the mutually-beneficial changes that student's desire. I am fully committed to working closely with the administration to ensure that student interests are heard, and recognize that sustainable growth and the inclusion of all are conducive to a vibrant and successful campus.

If elected, I will:

- Ensure sustainable grown and preserve UVic's natural beauty.
- Push for beneficial class sizes, facilities and undergraduate research opportunities.
- Promote communication between the administration and the student societies.
- Lobby for an expanded Co-op program with significantly reduced fees.
- Reduced tuition.
- Advocate increased scholarship, bursary, and work/study opportunities.
- Help make UVic a "Destination University" and a school that we can be proud of.

With an unparalleled location and a reputation for excellence, UVic is already one of Canada's leading universities. It is my goal to ensure UVic improves on that record, and not lose sight of its top priority, the students. Thank you for your support.

Vote Kuba Karas for Board of Governor!

CHARLES D.E. LAANSTRA

The Board of Governors at UVic is the main decision making body for all fiscal and management decisions. The functions of a university are education and research; educating students and researching which is done in part by students. Therefore decisions made by this board affect, by and large, students. It is my belief that a strong, outspoken voice is needed in order to represent our interests, and I am that voice.

Most minds I share with here have progressive interests, and look to a future where populations and their institutions ethically consider all genders, races, and ecologies. This university is on the right track; relatively liberal-minded and culturally sensitive, and on the road to being ecologically sustainable. However people are aware of the magnitude of the global problems we face, and feel as though nothing they can do will help.

I have found my way to help, and it corresponds with yours. Universities should be global leaders in their actions, and on this board I commit to pushing through all proposals which increase our opportunities to act right; green initiatives, participatory planning, ethically sourced food and more. I will even overcome my facebookaphobia to encourage ongoing participation in my position.

Don't forget your student ID!!!

RORY MARTIN-COURTRIGHT

My name is Rory Martin-Courtright and I am running to represent you on the University of Victoria Board of Governors. I am a 3rd year Political Science major, with extensive experience in student and political organizations. I have sat on boards, held leadership positions and I am currently involved with the UVSS.

With UVic growing and changing we must collaborate to insure important issues are addressed and work together to enhance our university and our university experience, in accordance with the Strategic plan.

We the Students are a fundamental element of this university and our voice should be heard. Students need to have a stronger influence within the university, especially at the Board of Governor level.

If elected I will:

Work to keep university fees at affordable levels;

- Strive to create new bursaries, scholarships and better financial aid for students;
- Lobby for better access and improvements to recreational & learning facilities;
- Advocate for increased accountability & transparency; and
- Pressure the administration to create a better campus environment for everyone.

I will work for sustainable growth and fight for changes that benefit not only current students but future students.

Please Vote Rory Martin-Courtright: Board of Governors!

CAITLIN MEGGS

If elected to the Board of Governors, I commit to being a strong student voice on issues that effect students – from sustainability to tuition. I will advocate:

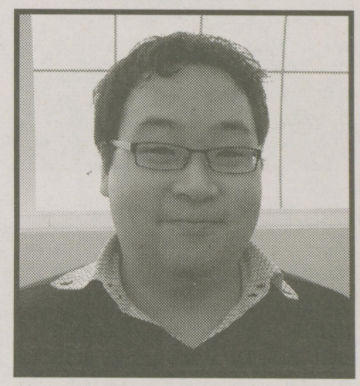
- That **Sustainability** remain a top priority in all university planning and operations
- That **Student Aid** be increased through work study, grants and bursaries
- That **Tuition Remain Capped** at inflation past 2009
- **Increase funding** for services such as day care, counseling services and the library
- That Board of Governors decision making process be as **Accessible** and **Transparent** for all students

I have the experience and knowledge it takes to be an effective representative for you, through my work advocating for students and sustainability on campus:

- 1 year as Director of Academics of the University of Victoria Students' Society
- Representative on the UVic Educational Equity Advisory Group
- Co-Chair of UVic Student Society Environmental Responsibility Committee
- Extensive volunteer work with Common Energy on sustainability initiatives and on-campus climate change

The Board of Governors is responsible for key decisions at UVic that greatly impact students, yet only a minority of the representatives are elected.

Vote **Caitlin Meggs** for Board of Governors to ensure a strong student voice!



RICHARD PARK

Students are a force for change and they need a student representative who has the experience to make their voices heard! Your representative needs to be involved with the current issues and know what needs improvement. I currently represent students on the UVic Senate and the UVic Student's Society Board of Directors.

UVic is constantly expanding. I will work towards increased **sustainability on campus:**

- Advocate for **sustainable planning & construction.**
- Continue working to **increase transit routes and hours.**

Inflation is constantly increasing and tuition is harder to meet. I will work to **keep education accessible:**

- Keep **student and campus fee increases minimal.**
- Increase financial aid through a **greater number of work studies, bursaries and scholarships.**

As student enrolment increases, I will work to ensure that the **quality of our educational experience** is improved by:

- **Increase study space areas and hours.**
- **Make co-ops work for students,** not bureaucracy.
- **Lower the price** of course packages & textbooks.

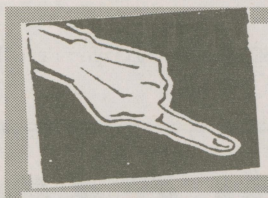
As your elected candidate, I will ensure that students are given priority with the university administration.

Feel free to contact me with questions or ideas you may have: richpark@uvic.ca.

√ Vote for Experience,

√ Vote for Richard Park

VOTE



POLLING STATIONS MARCH 5•6•7

WED MARCH 5

Clearihue	9:00am - 8:00pm
Commons	5:00pm - 7:00pm
David Strong	10:30am - 1:30pm
Eng. Lab Wing	10:30am - 1:30pm
Fine Arts	10:30am - 1:30pm
Library	9:00am - 8:00pm
MacLaurin	9:00am - 4:00pm
McKinnon	9:00am - 12:00pm
SUB	9:00am - 4:00pm
University Centre	10:30am - 1:30pm

THURS MARCH 6

Clearihue	9:00am - 8:00pm
Commons	5:00pm - 7:00pm
Cornett	1:00pm - 3:00pm
Elliott	10:30am - 1:30pm
Fraser	10:00am - 1:30pm
Library	9:00am - 8:00pm
MacLaurin	9:00am - 4:00pm
SUB	9:00am - 4:00pm
University Centre	10:30am - 1:30pm
ECS	9:00am - 4:00pm

FRI MARCH 7

Clearihue	9:00am - 4:00pm
Cornett	10:30am - 1:30pm
David Strong	10:30am - 1:30pm
Elliott	10:30am - 1:30pm
Eng. Lab Wing	10:00am - 12:00pm
HSD	10:30am - 1:30pm
Library	9:00am - 4:00pm
SUB	9:00am - 4:00pm
ECS	9:00am - 4:00pm